GM Praggnanandhaa Wins!

TATA STEEL 2025 (MASTERS)

Chess Notes 2025

B72

□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2695**

■ **Erigaisi Arjun** **2801**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (1.1) 18.01.25

[Kitty Kat]

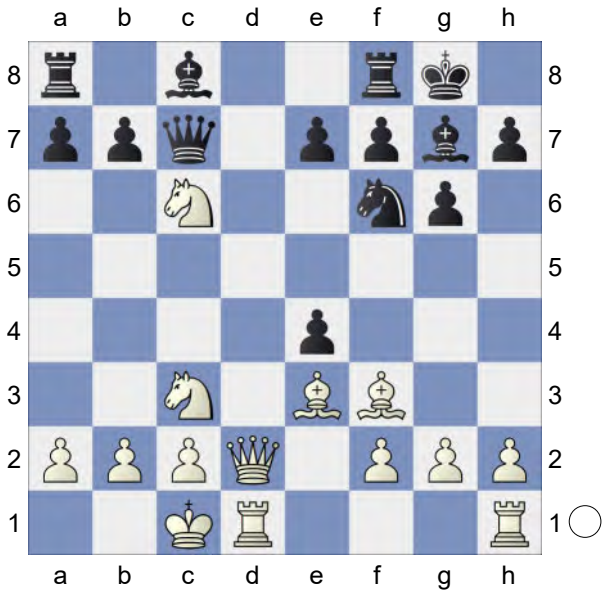
B72: Sicilian Dragon: 6 Be3, lines with h3+Bc4 and sidelines **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Be2 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 d5** 0.55/23

[9...Ng4= 0.02/20]

10.Bf3 -0.06/21

[10.exd5± 0.55/23 Nxd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.Qxd5 Qxd5 *(13...Qc7 14.Qxa8 Bf5 15.Qxf8+ Kxf8 16.Rd2 Qb8 17.b3 Bc3 18.Bh6+ Kg8 19.Rd5 Be4 20.Rc5 Bg7 21.Be3 Bxg2 22.Ba6 Bh3 23.c3 h5 24.Bc4 Bf6 25.Rg1 Kh7 26.Bxf7 Bf5 27.f4 Qb7 28.Rxf5* Teyssou,D (2528)-6.Na3 cd4 7.cd4 Bd7 (2660) Toshkent 2022 200 Traps In The Opening [Harding/Busemann] 0-1 (41) *)* 14.Rxd5]

10...dxe4= aiming for ... Nxd4. **11.Nxc6 Qc7**



12.Nxe7+N -0.31/22

[12.Nxe4 bxc6 #1 Lesson 44: 2.Nf3 d6 Dragon-Dragon 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Be2]

12...Qxe7∓ 13.Be2 Ng4 14.Bxg4

[14.Nd5!? Qe5 15.Qd4=]

14...Bxg4 15.Qd6 Qe8 -0.01/23

[15...Qh4∓ -0.47/21 is more appropriate. 16.Rd2 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Be6]

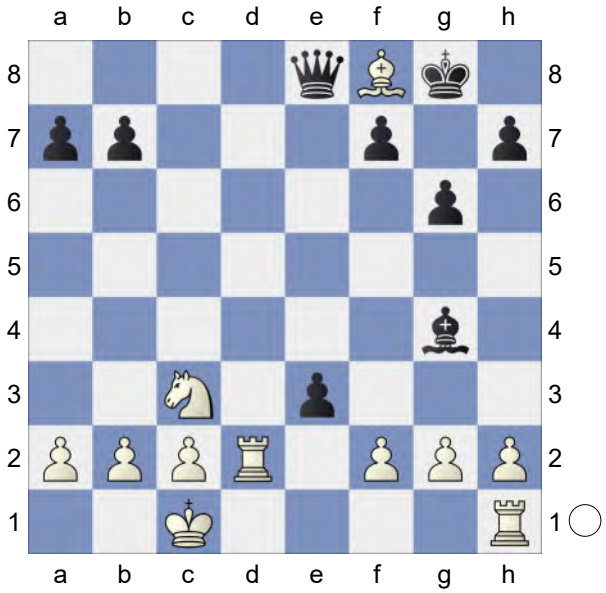
16.Rd2= Rc8 0.39/23

[16...Bxc3= -0.01/22 17.bxc3 Qa4]

17.Bd4 -0.01/22

[17.Nd5!± 0.39/23 deserves consideration.]

17...Rd8 18.Qxd8 Qxd8 19.Bxg7 Qe8 20.Bxf8 &Bianco is more active. **20...e3**



21.fxe3 Kxf8 22.Re1 Qe5 23.g3 Be6 24.a3 Kg7 25.Rd4 Qh5 26.Re2 Qf3 1.35/25

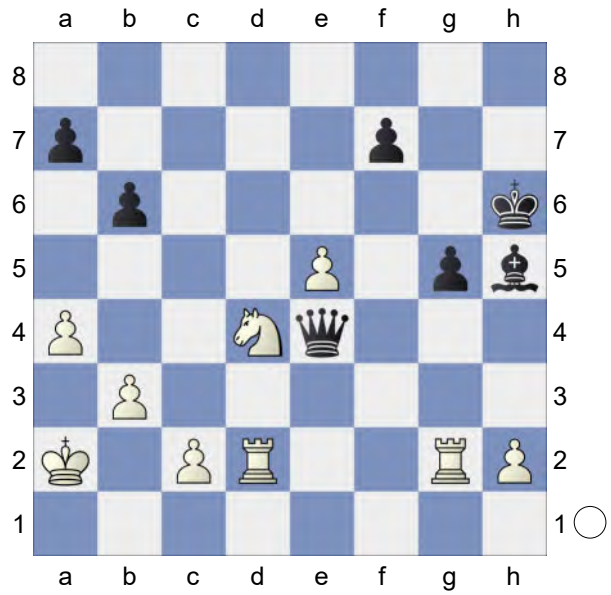
[⌓26...Qe5 0.98/23]

27.b3± h5 28.Kb2 Qf6 29.a4 b6 30.Red2 Qe5 31.e4 Kh6 32.Rd6 Kg7 33.R6d4? -0.01/24

[33.Rd8± 1.59/24]

33...Kh6!= 34.Nd5 Bg4 35.Ne3 Be6 36.Ka2 Qg5 37.Nd5 h4 38.gxh4 Qxh4 39.Nc7 Bh3 40.R4d3 Bg4 41.Nb5 Qe7 42.Nd6 Qf6 43.e5 Qf1 44.Rd4 Be6 45.Rh4+ Kg5 46.Re4

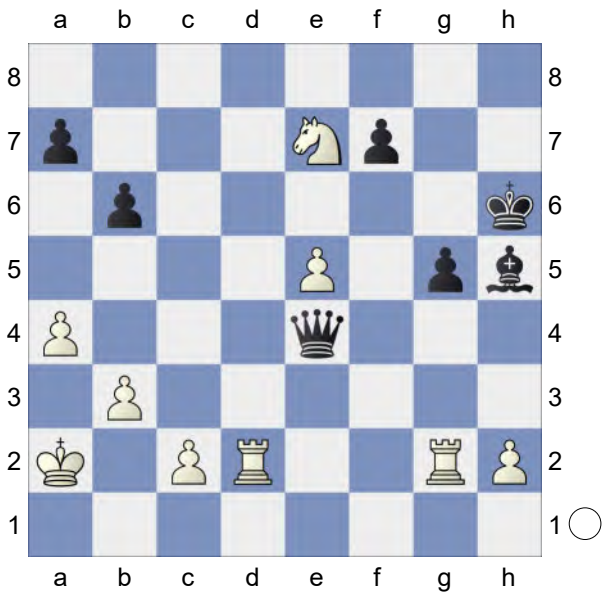
Kh6 47.Kb2 g5 48.Nb5 Bf5 49.Ree2 Bg4 50.Rg2 1.52/25
[50.Rf2+- 1.93/26 Qe1 51.Nd6 *(51.Nxa7 Qxe5+ 52.c3 f5±)*]
50...Qe1± 51.Nd4 Qe4 52.Ka2 Bh5



53.Nc6! Bg6 54.Ne7 And now Rde2 would win. **54...Bh5** 3.37/29 Prevents Rde2.
[54...Qxe5± 1.20/23 is a better defense. 55.Nxg6 fxg6]
55.Ng8++- Kg6 56.Ne7+? 0.01/23
[56.h4+- 3.43/27 g4 57.Nf6 Qxe5 58.Nxg4]
56...Kh6=

(Diagram)

57.h4! g4 58.Ng8+ Kg6 59.Nf6 Qf3 60.Rg1 Kh6? 7.98/27
[60...Qf4 3.32/28 61.Rdg2 Qxe5 62.Nxh5 Kxh5]
61.Rdg2 3.36/26
[⌓61.Rd8 7.98/27]
61...Qf5+- 62.Kb1
[Stronger than 62.Nxg4+ Bxg4 63.Rxg4 Qxc2+ 64.Ka3 Qc5+ 65.Kb2 Qxe5+ 66.Kb1 Qf5+ 67.Kc1 Qc5+ 68.Kb2 Qe5+ 69.Kb1 Qf5+



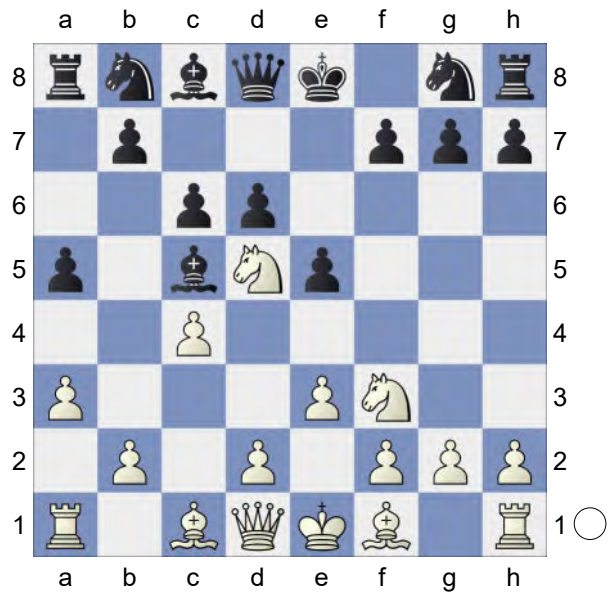
70.Kc1 Qc5+ 71.Kb2 Qe5+=]
62...Bg6? 8.66/25
[62...a6 3.41/26 63.Nxg4+ Bxg4]
63.h5 Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)
1-0

A21
□ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2741**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2768**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (1.2) 18.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

A21: English Opening: 1...e5 2 Nc3 **1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.Nd5 a5 4.Nf3 d6 5.a3 Bc5 6.e3! c6**

(Diagram)

7.d4! Ba7
[7...cxd5 8.dxc5]
8.Nc3 White is slightly better.
[8.dxe5 cxd5 9.Qxd5 Nc6 10.Qxd6 Qxd6 11.exd6 Bc5∓]
8...Nd7 9.Qc2N
[9.Be2 Ngf6 10.0-0 0-0 11.b4 Bb8 *(11...Re8 12.b5 e4 13.Nd2 d5*



14.bxc6 bxc6 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Nb5 Bb8 17.a4 Nf8 18.Ba3 Ra6 19.Rc1 Bxh2+ 20.Kxh2 Ng4+ 21.Bxg4 Rh6+ 22.Kg1 Qh4 23.f3 Bxg4 24.Bd6 Bd7 25.Qe1 Qh5 26.Bf4 Gareyev,T (2565)-Krysa,L (2525) San Salvador 2022 [Arsovic,Zoran] 1-0*)* 12.b5 e4 13.Nd2 d5 14.a4 c5 15.Ba3 cxd4 16.exd4 Re8 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.cxd5 Nb6 19.d6 Bxd6 20.Bxd6 Qxd6 21.Nc4 Nxc4 22.Bxc4 b6 23.Qb3 Re7 Harvey,M (2491) -Sadhwani,R (2677) London 2024 ½-½]

[9.Ne4 Bb8 10.d5 Ngf6 11.dxc6 Nxe4 12.cxd7+ Bxd7 13.b3 Bc6 14.Bb2 Qb6 15.Qc2 Nc5 16.Nd2 0-0 Nepomniachtchi, I (2751)-Anand,V (2776) Moscow (rapid) 135/(15) 2018 [Tadic,Branko]]

[9.b4 Ngf6 10.Bb2 0-0 11.Be2 Bb8 12.d5 cxd5 13.cxd5 Nb6 14.0-0 Bg4 15.Qb3 a4 16.Qd1 Qe7 17.Rc1 Rc8 18.Nd2 Bd7 19.e4 Bc7 20.Bb5 Bd8 21.Qe2 Ne8 22.Rc2 Bxb5 23.Qxb5 Qd7 Pires,A (2717)-Mladenov,P (2647) Wijk aan Zee 2020 MON C00 RK [A.S. Hollis, CC19 p212.] ½-½ (68)]

9...Ngf6 10.Bd2 0-0 11.0-0-0 Re8 12.h3 e4 13.Nh2

[13.Ng5 d5 14.cxd5 cxd5∓]

13...d5 14.g4 dxc4 15.g5 Nd5 16.Nxe4 Qe7 17.Ng3 -0.38/21

[17.Bg2= -0.06/21]

17...b5 -0.06/21

[17...Qxg5 18.e4 Nf4 19.Bxc4±]

[17...c3!∓ -0.38/21 might be stronger. 18.bxc3 Qxa3+ 19.Qb2 Qxb2+ 20.Kxb2 b5]

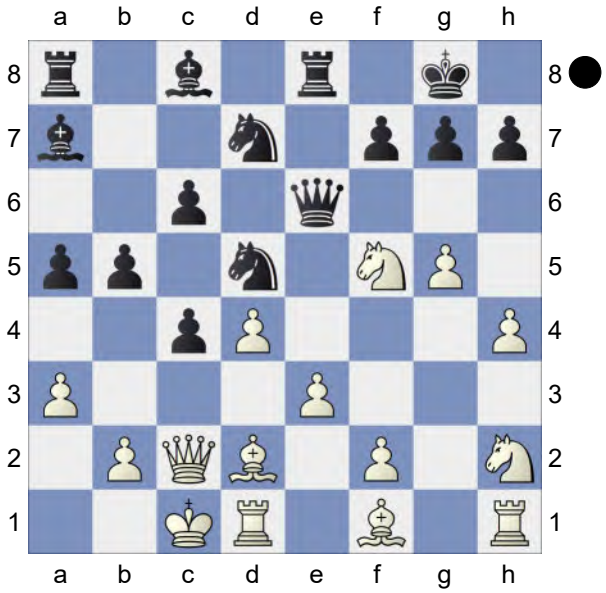
18.Nf5

[18.e4!? c3 19.exd5 cxd2+ 20.Kb1=]

18...Qe6

[18...Qxg5 19.e4 Qg6 20.exd5±]

19.h4



c5 -0.05/19

[19...Ne5!∓ -0.56/21 20.Ng3 Nd3+ 21.Bxd3 cxd3 22.Qxd3 b4]

20.Bh3= And now Nh6+! would win.

20...Qa6 Against Nh6+ **21.h5** -1.18/19

[21.Rhe1= -0.06/19]

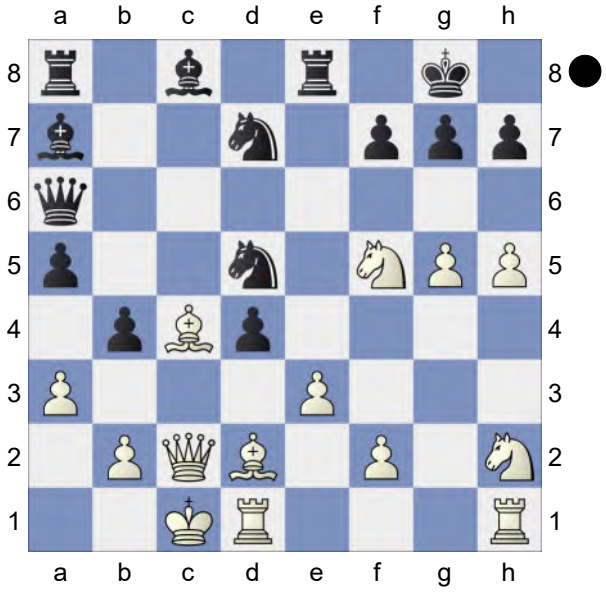
21...b4!∓

[21...cxd4 22.exd4 b4 23.Ng4 bxa3 24.Rhe1 axb2+ 25.Kb1∓]

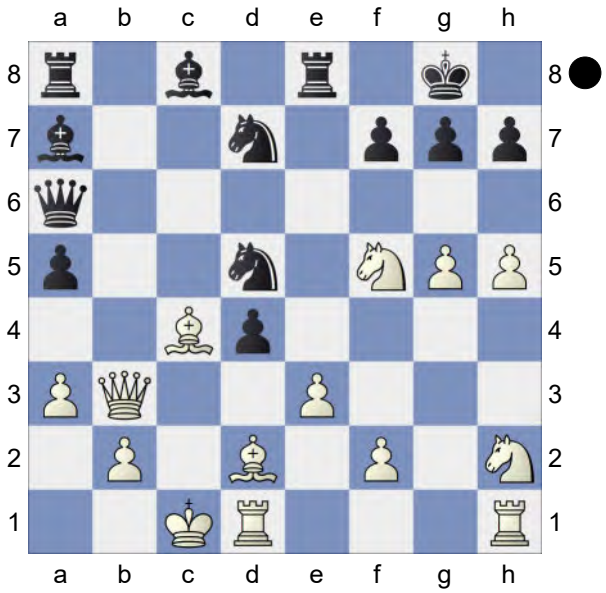
22.Bf1 -1.61/20

[22.Ng4∓ -1.02/17 was called for.]

22...cxd4!-+
[22...bxa3 23.Bxc4 *(23.bxa3 cxd4 24.Bxc4 Qc6-+)* 23...Qc6 24.g6 *(24.bxa3? cxd4 25.Be2 Qxc2+ 26.Kxc2 dxe3-+)* 24...fxg6 25.hxg6= *(25.bxa3? gxf5 26.Ba2 Bb7-+)*]
23.Bxc4

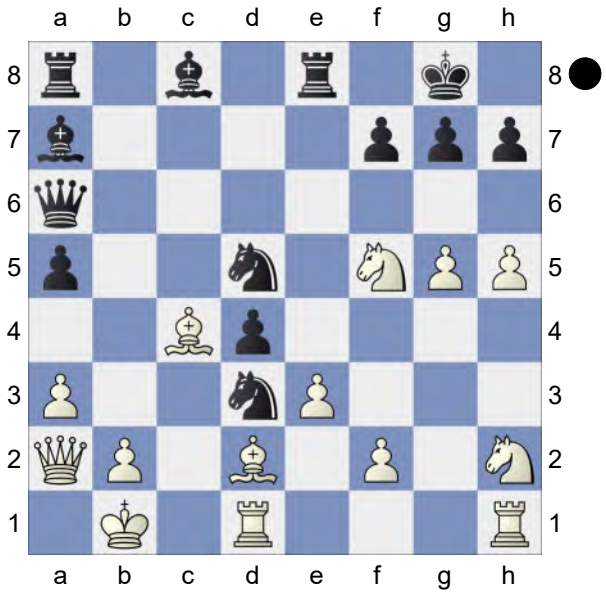


b3! -0.89/23 **24.Qxb3∓**

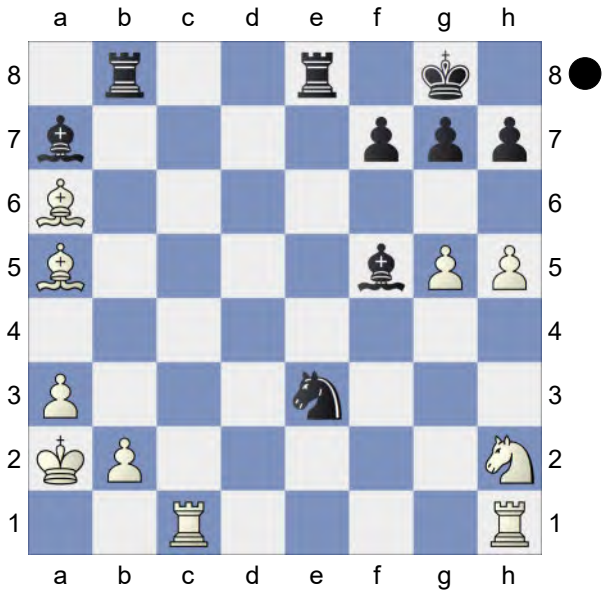


Nc5 Discovered Attack **25.Qa2 Nd3+ 26.Kb1**

(Diagram)

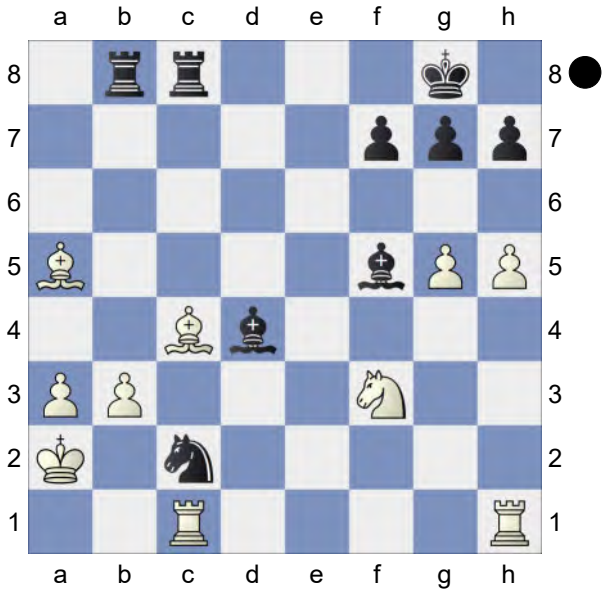


Bxf5! 27.Bxa6 N3b4+ Pair of Knights!
28.Ka1 Nxa2 29.Kxa2 dxe3 30.fxe3
[30.Bxa5? e2! 31.Rxd5 Be6-+]
30...Nxe3
[30...Bxe3?! 31.Bb7 Be6 32.Bxa8 Nc3+ 33.Ka1 Nxd1 34.Bc6=]
31.Rc1 Rab8 -0.44/22
[Better is 31...Bb6∓ -0.84/22 32.Bb5 Re5]
32.Bxa5 -1.05/24
[White should play 32.Rhe1!∓ -0.44/22]

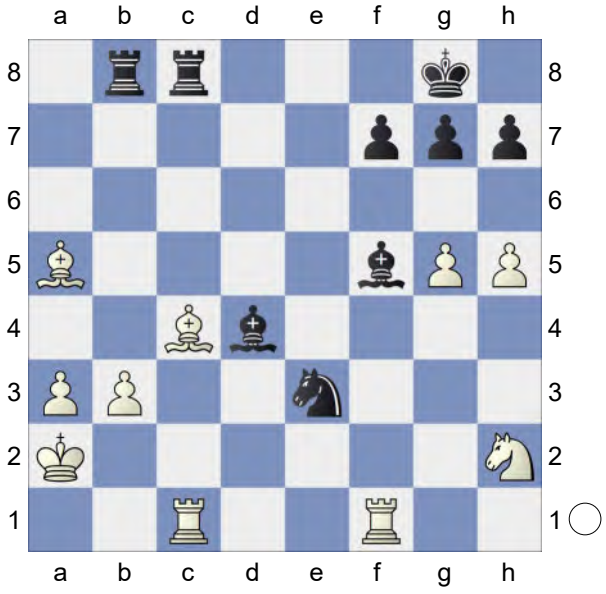


32...Nc2! 33.Bc4 Bd4 34.b3 Rec8

0.44/23
[34...Ra8∓ -1.05/23 35.Rxc2 Bxc2]
35.Rhf1!±
[Don't blunder 35.Nf3?



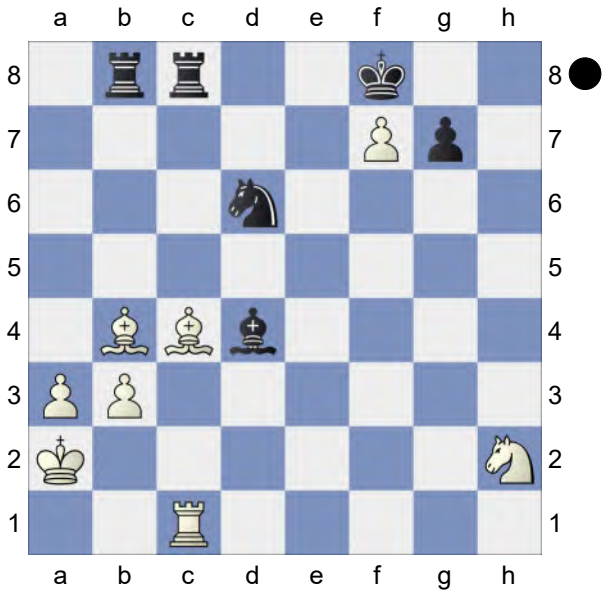
Rxc4! 36.Nxd4 Rxd4-+]
35...Ne3



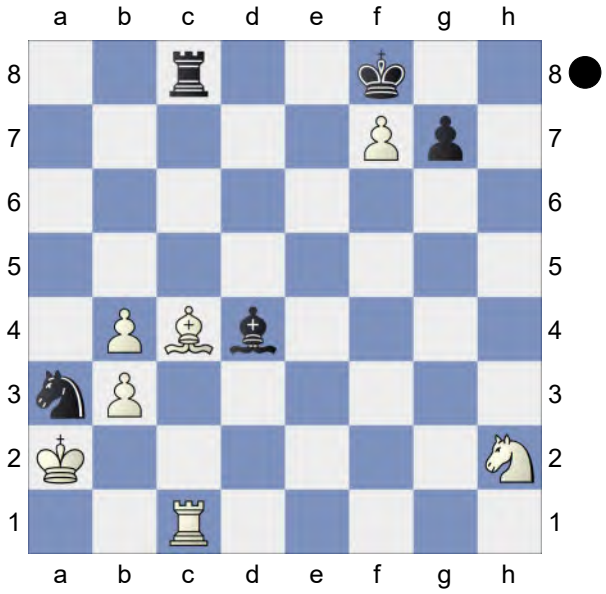
36.Rxf5 Nxf5 37.g6 hxg6 38.hxg6 Nd6⇄ Black is not keeping still. The position is equal. **39.gxf7+ Kf8 40.Bb4**

(Diagram)

Rxb4 41.axb4 Nb5 Threatens to win



with ...Ra8+. **42.Kb1 Na3+ 43.Ka2**



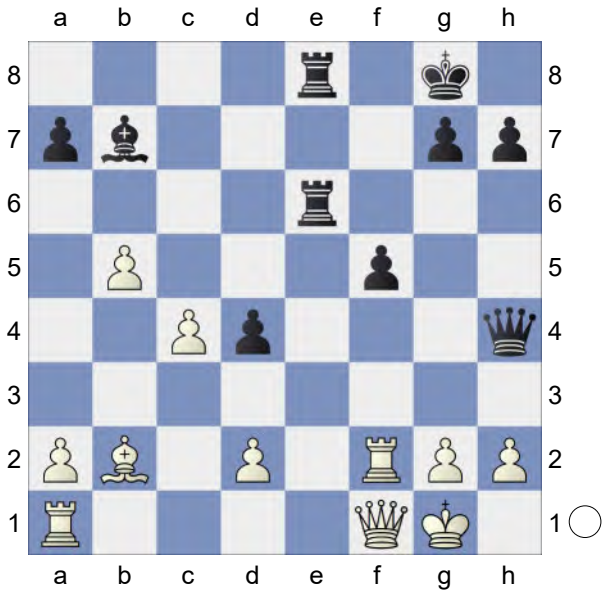
Nc2! Strongly threatening ...Ra8+.
44.Kb1
[44.Rxc2? leads to mate. Ra8+]
44...Na3+ 45.Ka2 Nc2 aiming for ... Ra8+. **46.Kb1**
[46.Rxc2? is a self mate. Ra8+]
46...Na3+! Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.13 (very precise)
½-½

C58
□ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (1.3) 18.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

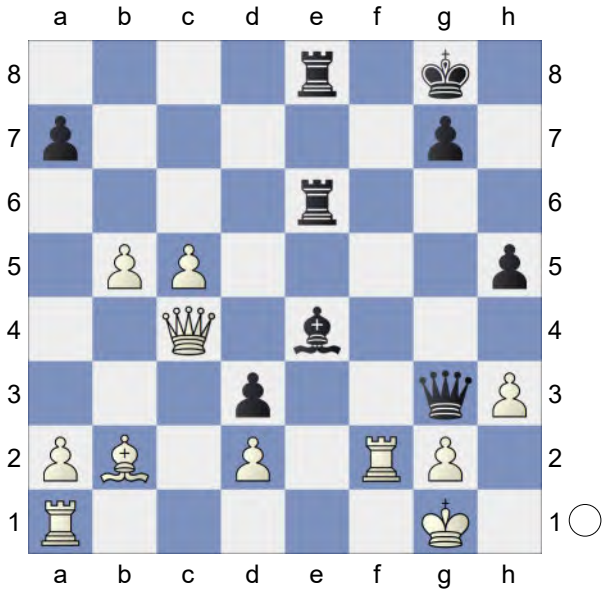
C58: Two Knights: 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5 Na5 sidelines **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 Nd5**
[8...Ng4!? 9.Nh3 Bc5=]
9.Nf3
[9.Qh5 g6 10.Nxf7 gxh5∓]
9...Bd6 10.Nc3 f5 The position is equal. **11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.b4 Nc6 13.Bb5 Bb7 14.Bb2**
[14.d4!?]
14...0-0! 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.Nxe5 Re8 17.f4 d4N 0.39/24
[17...Qb6= 0.04/22 18.Rb1 *(18.a3 a5 #5 17. Italian: 4. Ng5-8. Bd3 9. Nf3)* 18...d4]
18.0-0± Bxe5 19.fxe5 Rxe5 20.c4 -0.01/24
[20.a4± 0.48/21]
20...Qh4!= 21.b5 Bb7 And now ...Rae8 would win. **22.Rf2** Qf1 is the strong threat. **22...Rae8** Strongly threatening ... f4. **23.Qf1** Hoping for Rc1. **23...R5e6** 1.22/21
[23...R8e6!= -0.01/20]

(Diagram)

24.c5!↑ Threatens to win with Qc4. Keeping Black busy.
[Don't play 24.Rxf5 a6 25.a4 h6+-]
[24.Rf4?! Qg5 25.Rxf5 *(25.Bxd4? Re1-+)* 25...Qxd2=]
24...Be4 2.47/20
[24...Bd5± 1.16/21]
25.Qc4+- Black must now prevent d3.



25...d3 26.Rxf5 Qg4 27.Rf2 aiming for c6. **27...h5 28.h3 Qg3**



29.c6! Kh7 30.Qc5 Rg6 (→ ...Qxh3)
31.Rc1? -#7/16
[31.Qxa7 gets mated. Bxg2]
[31.Qxh5+± 0.99/24 Kg8 32.Bd4]
31...Qxh3 What a bad dream for White.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/ Black=0.18 (very precise)
0-1

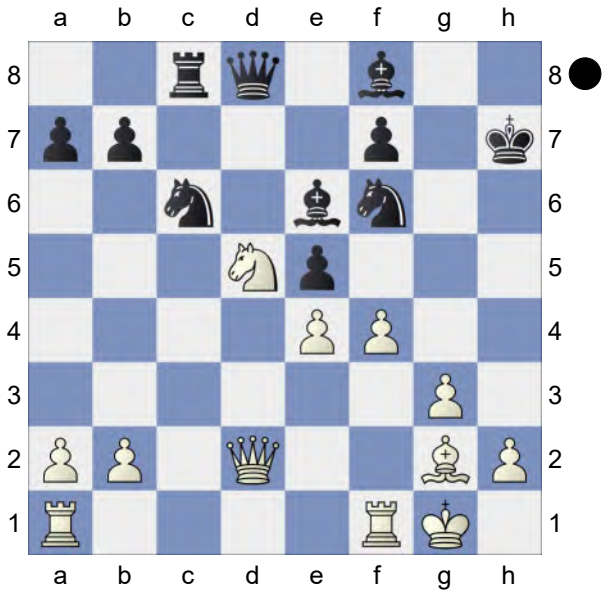
E04
□ **Gukesh D** **2777**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (1.4) 18.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

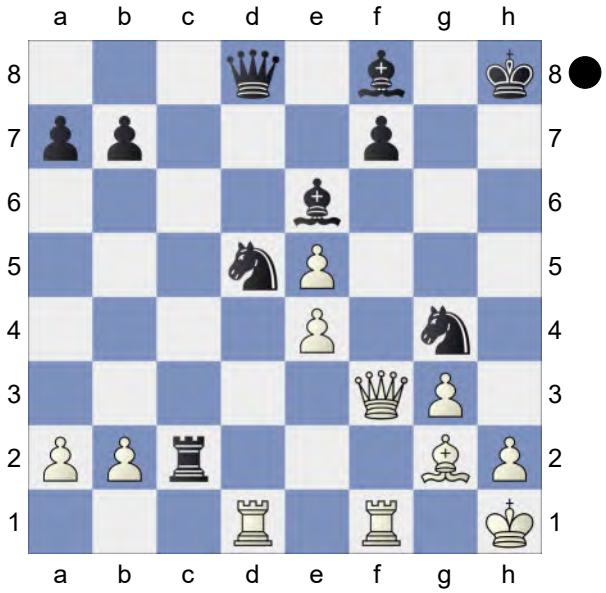
E04: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3 **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 Nc6 5.d4 e6 6.c4 dxc4 7.Qa4 Bd7 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qxc4 Be7 10.Nc3 0-0 11.e4 Rc8 12.Qe2 Bc5**
[12...Qa5 13.Rd1 Rfd8 14.Bd2 Qb6 15.Be3 Qa5 16.Nd2 Be8 17.Nb3 Qb4 18.f4 Nd7 19.e5 Nb6 20.Bf2 a5 21.Be1 a4 22.Nd5 Qc4 23.Qxc4 Nxc4 24.Nxe7+ Nxe7 25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.Na5 Nxa5 27.Bxa5 Esipenko,A (2675)-Duda,J (2729) Dusseldorf GER 2023 [Raven Sturt] ½-½ (44)]
13.Bg5N Black must now prevent e5. White has an edge.
[13.e5 Nd5 14.Ne4 Nd4 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.Nd6 Rc6 17.Rd1 Qb6 18.Nf5 exf5 19.Bxd5 Rcc8 Training Positions-Position]
13...h6 14.Bh4 -0.68/22
[14.Be3= 0.19/22 Bb4 15.Rfc1]
14...g5∓ 15.Nxg5 hxg5 16.Bxg5 e5! 17.Qd2! Be7 18.Bh6 White threatens Qg5+ and mate. **18...Kh7** Strongly threatening ...Rh8. **19.Bxf8**
[19.Qg5? Rg8 20.Qd2 Be6-+]
19...Bxf8 20.f4 Be6 21.Nd5!

(Diagram)

Nb4! 22.fxe5 Ng4 ...Rc2 is the strong threat. **23.Rad1! Kh8! 24.Kh1** -1.02/22
[24.Qf4= -0.01/23]
24...Rc2∓ 25.Qf4 Hoping for Nxb4. **25...Nxd5 26.Qf3**

(Diagram)





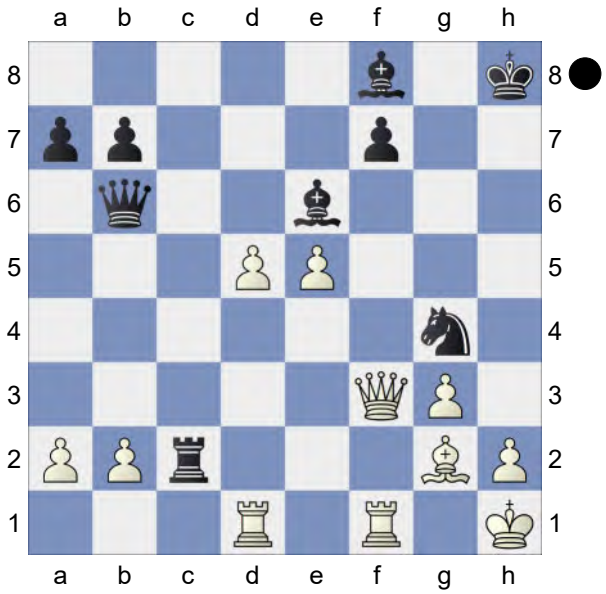
Qb6! 27.exd5

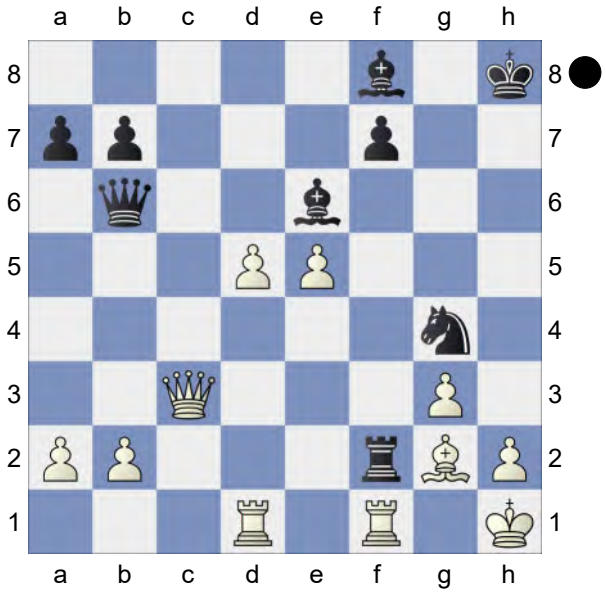
(Diagram)

Rf2! 28.Qc3

(Diagram)

Bb4! 0.01/24 **29.Qc1!= Bf5!⇄** Threatens to win with ...Rxg2! Black is not holding back **30.Qg5 Bf8** A strong pair of Bishops. **31.Qh4+** -1.17/23





[31.Qh5+!= -0.01/24 Bh6 32.Rde1 *(32.Qxf7? Rxg2 33.Qe8+ Kg7-+)* 32...Qxb2 33.Rxf2 *(33.Qxf7 Rxg2 34.Qe8+ Kg7 35.Qe7+ Kg8 36.Qd8+ Kh7 37.Qe7+ Bg7 38.Qh4+ Kg6)* 33...Nxf2+ 34.Kg1]

31...Bh6 -0.01/20

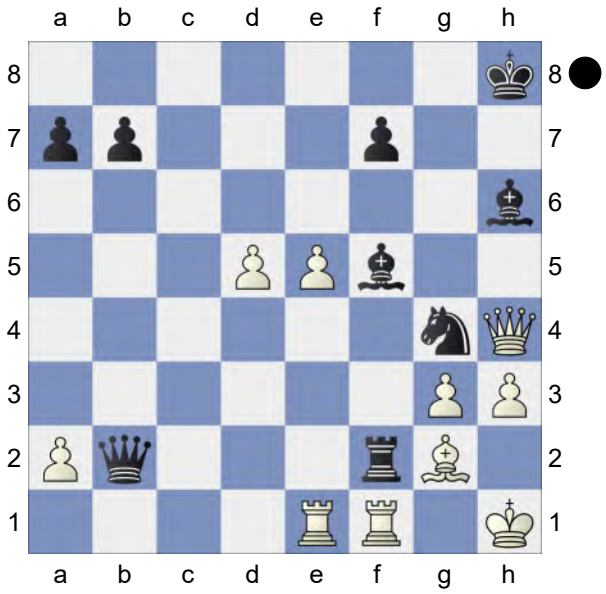
[31...Kg8∓ -1.17/23 And now ...Rxg2! would win. 32.e6 Rxf1+ 33.Rxf1 Nf2+ 34.Rxf2 *(34.Kg1? Nh3+ 35.Kh1 Qg1+ 36.Rxg1 Nf2#)* 34...Qxf2 35.Qg5+ Kh8 36.Qh5+ *(36.Qf6+? Bg7-+)* 36...Bh7 37.Qxf7 Qxf7 38.exf7 Kg7]

32.Rde1 aiming for e6!

[Don't blunder 32.h3? Rxg2! 33.hxg4 Be4 34.Qf6+ Qxf6 35.Rxf6 Rd2+ 36.Kg1 Rxd1+-+]

32...Qxb2 33.h3? -5.08/27

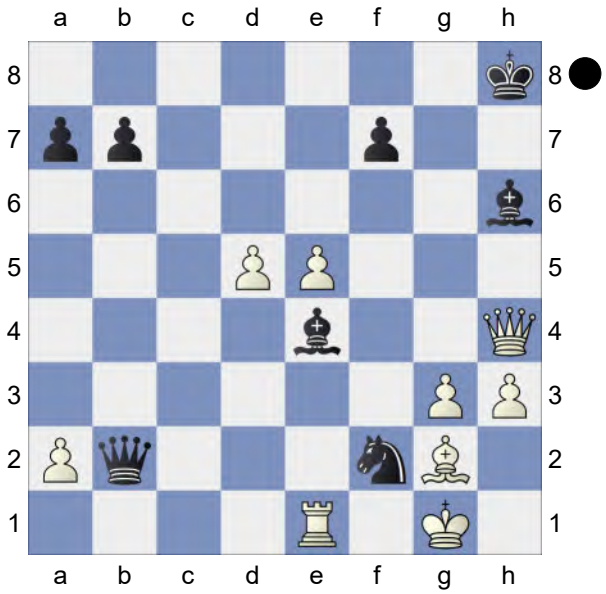
[33.Rxf2!= -0.01/24 and White is okay. Nxf2+ 34.Kg1]



33...Be4!-+ (→ ...Rxf1+) **34.Rxf2**

[Not 34.Qd8+? Kg7 35.Qf6+ Nxf6]

34...Nxf2+ 35.Kg1

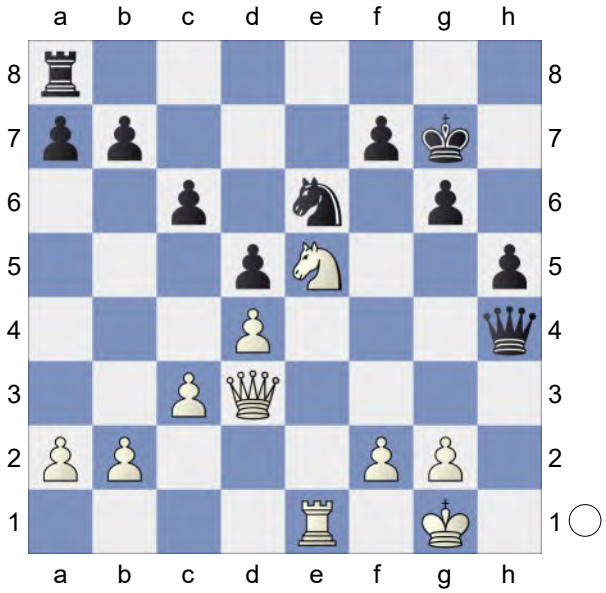


Qb6 5.42/23

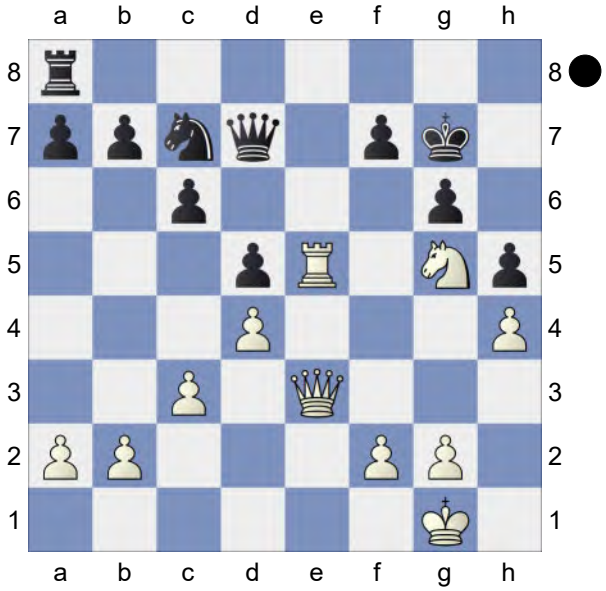
[35...Ng4!-+ -4.52/23 avoids the disaster. 36.Qxh6+ *(36.Qd8+? Kg7-+)* 36...Nxh6 37.Rxe4 Nf5]
36.Qf6++- White is clearly winning. **36...Qxf6 37.exf6 Bxg2 38.Kxg2 Nd3 39.Re8+ Kh7 40.d6** Intending d7 and mate. **40...Nc5 41.Re5** Inhibits Bg5. **41...Nd7 42.Re7** Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.25 (precise)
1-0

C67
□ **Wei,Yi** **2751**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (1.5) 18.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C67: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence: 4 0-0 Nxe4 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bf1 Nxe5 8.Rxe5 0-0 9.d4 Bf6 10.Re1 Re8 11.Bf4 Rxe1 12.Qxe1 Ne8** White has an edge. **13.c3 d5 14.Nd2 c6 15.Qe3**
[15.a4 a5 16.Bd3 g6 17.Nf3 Ng7 18.Bh6 Be6 19.h3 Qd6 20.Qd2 Re8 21.Re1 Qd8 22.g4 Bc8 23.Rxe8+ Nxe8 24.Qf4 Qc7 25.Kg2 Qxf4 26.Bxf4 Be7 27.g5 Bd6 28.Ne5 Kf8 29.h4 Ke7 Carlsen,M (2868)-Topalov, V (2793) Stavanger 2013 CBM 155 [Marin,Mihail] ½-½ (51)]
15...g6N
[15...Bf5 16.Re1 Nd6 17.h3 Qd7 18.Qg3 Ne4 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Be5 Bxe5 21.Qxe5 Re8 22.Qf4 Bg6 23.Bc4 h6 24.g4 b5 25.Bb3 a5 26.a3 b4 27.axb4 axb4 28.h4 bxc3 29.bxc3 Qb7 30.Bc4 Lou,Y (2459)-Zhao,J (2535) Shaoxing 2024 1-0 (58)]
16.Re1 Ng7 17.Nf3 Bf5 18.h3 h5 19.Be5 Ne6 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 Kg7 22.h4 Bxe5 23.Rxe5 0.02/24
[23.Nxe5± 0.33/23 Qxh4



24.Nxg6!]
23...Qd7= The position is equal. **24.Ng5** White wants to play Nxe6+. **24...Nc7 25.Qe3**



Strongly threatening Re7. **25...Re8** Against Re7 **26.g3 Kg8 27.Qf4 Rxe5 28.Qxe5 Ne8 29.Nh3 Nd6 30.Nf4 Qd8 31.Kg2** Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.03

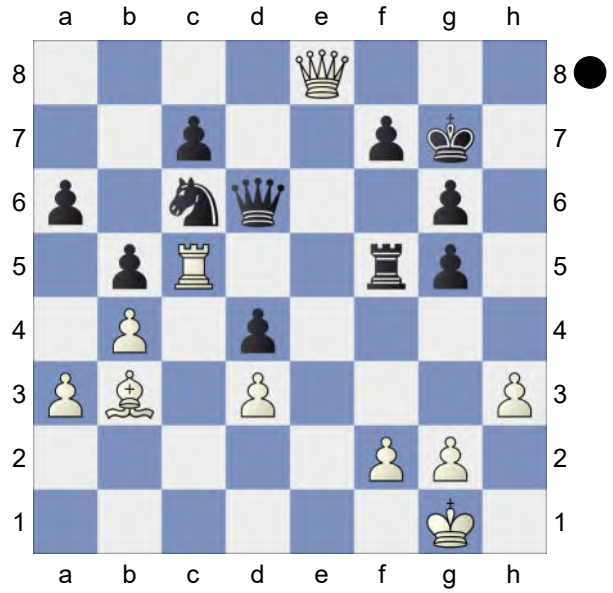
(flawless)
½-½

C42

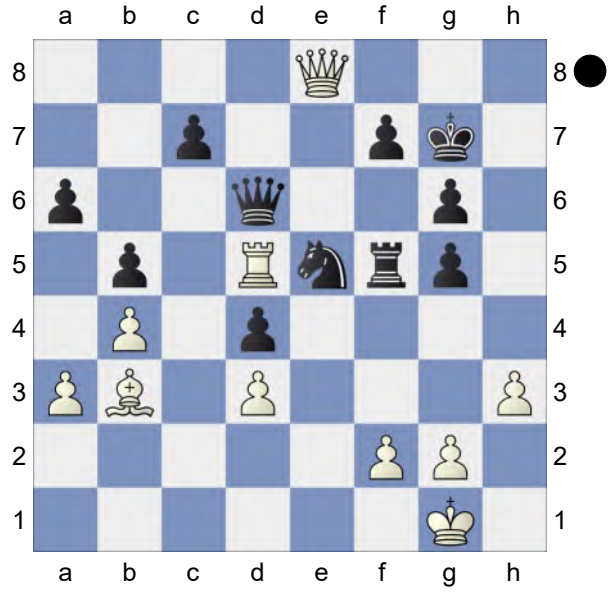
□ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**
■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2717**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (1.6) 18.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves Sokolov,And: 'Inf 99/203' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Bd3 Ng5N**
[5...d5 6.Qe2 Qe7 7.0-0 Nd6 8.Qd1 Qd8 *(8...Qf6 9.Re1+ Be7 10.Nc3 c6 11.b4 Bg4 12.b5 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Qxf3 14.gxf3 Kd8 15.Ba3 Nc8 16.bxc6 bxc6 17.Bxe7+ Nxe7 18.Rab1 Nc8 19.Na4 Nd6 20.Bf1 Nd7 21.Bh3 Re8 22.Re3 f5 23.Bf1* West,J (2661) -Novik (2574) Hastings 2000 CBM 104 [[Notes by Iain Mackintosh](Übersetzt Bellman] 0-1 (32) *)* 9.Re1+ Be7 10.Qe2 *(10.c3 0-0 11.Bc2 c6 12.d4 Bf5 13.Bf4 Bxc2 14.Qxc2 Na6 15.Nbd2 Nc7 16.Re2 Re8* Petroff with 3. Nxe5 Sideline-Petroff with 3 Nxe5 Sidelines *)* 10...Nc6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Ne5 Nb4 13.b3 0-0 14.Nxf7 Bxf7 15.Qxe7 Qxe7 16.Rxe7 Nxd3 17.cxd3 Rfe8 18.Rxe8+ Rxe8 19.Ba3 d4 20.Bxd6 Sokolov,A (2585)-Giertz,N (2342) Basel 2007 CI1-130 [Sokolov,Andrei] 1-0 (42)]
[5...Nf6 6.0-0 Be7 7.h3 0-0 8.c3 Re8 *(8...b6 9.Bc2 Bb7 10.d4 Nbd7 11.Re1 Re8 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 Nh5 14.Qd3 g6 15.Bg3 Nxg3 16.fxg3 Bf8 17.Nbd2 Nf6 18.Nh4 Qd7 19.Rf1 Ne4 20.Bb3 d5 21.Nxe4 Rxe4 22.Nxg6 Ba6 23.Nxf8* Faldon,D (2260)-Zhu,T (2344) Israel 2023 Chess Today CT-733 [John Watson] 1-0*)* 9.Bc2 b6 10.d4 Bb7 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Ne4 13.Bxe7 Rxe7 14.Nbd2 Nxd2 15.Qxd2 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Nd7 17.Kh2 Re6 18.Rg1 Qf6 19.Rg3 Kh8 20.Rag1 Vit Spelar Sgf3 (2706)-Ellithorpe,G (2731) Hastings 2001 Telechess CBM 89 [Ernst] 0-1 (42)]
6.0-0 d5 7.Re1+ Ne6 8.c4 0.16/21
[8.Bf5± 0.51/21 deserves consideration.]
8...d4= 9.Qc2 -0.18/20
[⌓9.Be4 0.17/19]
9...g6 10.c5 Bg7 11.Bc4 0-0 12.d3 Nc6
[Don't take 12...Nxc5 13.Bg5 Bf6 14.Bxf7+! Rxf7 15.Qxc5±]
13.a3 Nxc5 14.Bg5 Qd6 15.Nbd2 Bf5 16.b4 Ne6 17.Bh4! Rac8 0.41/21
[17...a6= -0.05/21]
18.Ne4± Bxe4 19.Rxe4 Ncd8 20.Rae1 a6 21.Ne5 -0.01/22
[21.Qa2± 0.54/22 Qd7 22.Rxe6 fxe6 23.Bxd8 Qxd8 24.Bxe6+ Kh8 25.Bxc8 Qxc8 26.Qd5]
21...Bxe5= 22.Rxe5 Re8 23.Qa2 White has compensation. &Bianco is much more active. The black rooks are badly placed. **23...Kg7** 1.28/23
[⌓23...c5 0.74/22]
24.Bb3 0.71/20
[White should play 24.f4! 1.28/23 aiming for f5. Nc6 25.Bxe6 fxe6 26.Rxe6]
24...Nc6± 25.R5e4 Qd7 26.Qe2 h6 27.Qf3 -0.59/23 Inhibits Nf4.
[27.Bg3= 0.30/22]
27...Ng5!∓ 28.Bxg5 hxg5 29.h3 Rxe4 30.Qxe4 Rh8 31.Ba4 Rh4
[31...b5!? 32.Rc1 Nb8∓]
32.Qe2 b5 33.Bb3 Rf4 34.Rc1 Qd6

35.Rc5 Rf5 36.Qe8 -1.41/25
[⌓36.Rxf5 -0.82/23 gxf5 37.Qf3]



36...Nd8 -0.01/25
[Black should try 36...Ne5!∓ -1.41/25 37.Rd5



Nf3+! 38.gxf3 Rxd5 39.Bxd5 Qxd5]
37.g3= c6 38.Kg2 -0.36/25
[38.Rxf5= -0.01/25 gxf5 39.Kg2]
38...Qc7 -0.01/27
[38...Rxc5∓ -0.36/25 39.bxc5 Qc7]
39.Qe4 Chess con chili. **39...Rxc5 40.bxc5 Qd7 41.Qe5+! f6 42.Qb8 a5 43.a4!**
[But not 43.Qd6? Qxd6 44.cxd6 a4-+]
43...bxa4 44.Bxa4 Nf7 45.Bb3 Prevents Qd5+. **45...a4** 0.31/26
[45...Qe7= -0.01/24 is more appropriate.]
46.Bxa4± Qd5+ Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.13 (very precise)
½-½

A11
□ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
■ **Sarana,Alexey** **2677**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (1.7) 18.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

A11: English Opening: 1...c6 Current Reputation: White has the upper hand I must admit that today's featured game has completely swept me off my feet for two reasons: of course, Grischuk's novelty was really great, but the game itself was even more impressive - very much in the spirit of Tal's crushing attacks. Let's take a look. **1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.c4 dxc4**
[4...e6 5.Qb3 Qb6 6.d3 Nd7 7.cxd5 *(7.Nh4 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.Nc3 Nc5 11.Qxb6 axb6 12.b3 Be7 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.Bb2 Bf6 15.0-0 g5 16.Rfd1 Ne7 17.d4 Na6 18.e4 dxe4 19.Nxe4 0-0-0 20.a3 Nb8 21.Nxf6 gxf6* Pirk,H (2675) - Prinfilk (2334) Torino 2022 The Week in Chess 354 [John Watson] 1-0 (39)*)* 7...exd5 8.Qc2 Ngf6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nc3 0-0 11.e4 Bg6 12.Be3 Qa6 13.h3 Rfd8 14.Nh4 Ne5 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.d4 Nc4 17.e5 Nh7 18.h4 Nf8 19.Bh3 Ding,L (2766)-Wojtaszek,

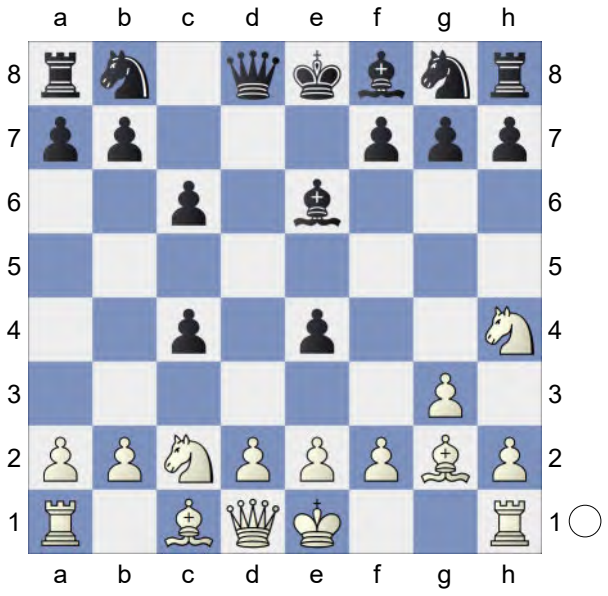
R (2727) Huaian 2016 CBM 171 Extra [Schulz,Andre] 1-0 (33)]

5.Na3 e5 6.Nc2N

[Wrong is 6.Nxe5? Bxa3 7.bxa3 Qd4 8.Nxc4 Qxc4-+]

[6.Nxc4 e4 7.Nfe5 Qc7 8.d4 f6 9.Ne3 Be6 10.N5c4 f5 11.0-0 Nf6 *(11...Nd7 12.f3 exf3 13.Bxf3 Ngf6 14.b3 b5 15.Nb2 Rc8 16.Nd3 g6 17.a4* Grischuk's Great Game,S-English Opening: Anglo-Slav,7 Linz 2014 [Boris Avrukh]*)* 12.f3 exf3 13.Rxf3 g6 14.g4 f4 15.g5 Nh5 16.d5 cxd5 17.Nxd5 Qc5+ 18.Nce3 fxe3 19.b4 Qd6 20.Rxe3 Na6 1 Chapter Best-Games Game 21.Bb2 Bg7 22.Nf6+ Delayed Steinitz Main-Markus, R New York 200 Traps In The Opening [John Watson]]

6...e4 7.Nh4 Be6



...g5 is the strong threat. **8.Bxe4** Black is slightly better. **8...Nf6 9.Bg2 Bc5 10.0-0 0-0 11.Ne3 Na6 12.b3 Bd4 13.Rb1 cxb3 14.axb3 Nb4 15.Nef5 Bb6 16.Bb2 g6! 17.Ne3 Bd4 18.Qc1 a5 19.Nf3 Bxb2 20.Qxb2 Re8 21.Rfc1 Ng4 22.Nc4 Qe7 23.d3 Bd5 24.h3 Nf6 25.Ne3**

[25.Ra1 seems wilder. Nd7 26.Ne3 b6 27.Nxd5 cxd5 28.Bf1]

25...Rad8 26.Ra1 b6

[26...Nh5 is interesting. 27.Rxa5 Nxg3 28.Ng4 Nxe2+ 29.Kf1 Qd6]

27.d4 h5 -0.13/24

[27...Be4!∓ -0.61/21]

28.Nxd5= cxd5 29.Ne5 Rc8 30.Qd2 Kg7 31.Rc3 -0.44/23

[31.Qf4= -0.01/24]

31...Nd7 32.Nxd7 Rxc3 33.Qxc3 Qxd7 34.Qd2 Rc8 -0.01/25

[34...Qc6∓ -0.48/24 is more appropriate.]

35.Rc1! Rc6 36.Rc3 Qc7 37.Rxc6 Qxc6 38.e3 Kf6 39.Qd1 Qc3 40.Bf1 Qc2 41.Qf3+ Qf5 42.Qe2 Qd7 43.Qf3+ Qf5 44.Qe2 Qe6 45.Qf3+ Ke7 46.g4 hxg4 47.hxg4 Kf8 48.Qf4 Na2 49.Bg2 Kg7 50.Qc7 Nb4 51.Bf3 Nd3 Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

½-½

C02

□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek 2768**

■ **Mendonca,Leon Luke 2639**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (2.1) 19.01.25

[Kitty Kat]

C02: French: Advance Variation **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a4**

[6.Na3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Nge7 9.Nc2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 Qxb2 11.Bd3 h6 12.0-0 Qb6 13.Qf4 *(13.Rab1 Qa5 14.Qf4 0-0 15.Ne3 Bd7 16.Rxb7 Bc8 17.Rb3 Qxa2 18.Rfb1 Ba6 19.Bxa6 Qxa6 20.h4 Rab8 21.h5 Rxb3 22.Rxb3 Rb8 23.Rxb8+ Nxb8 24.g4 Qd3 25.g5 Qb1+ 26.Kg2 Qe4 27.Qg3 hxg5*

Sperat Czar,N (2525) -Shkurovich Khazin,B (2238) Tripolis 2022 ICCF Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 1-0 (43)) 13...Bd7 14.Rab1 Qc7 15.Ne3 f5 16.h4 0-0 17.h5 Rab8 18.g3 Na5 19.Rfc1 Qd8 20.Ng2 b5 Cherkes,D (2622)-4.Nf3 a6 5.a4 b6 (2719) Ashdod 93/ (394) 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [Rabinovich,A] 0-1 (32)]

6...cxd4N

[6...Bd7 7.Bb5 a6 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qc2 f6 11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Re1 Ne4 13.Nbd2 0-0 14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Nd4 Bxd4 17.cxd4 Qxd4 18.Be3 Qf6 19.Rad1 Rac8 20.Bd4 e5 21.Be3 Sachs Weintraub,J (850)-James,C (1497) San Francisco 2014 EXT 2016 [Donaldson,John W] 0-1 Qe6 22.Qc3 Bxa4 23.Qa5 Bxd1 24.Rxd1 Qb3 25.Rc1 Qxb2 0-1 (25) 12N¤c6 bc6 13. e5 (850)-Kalata,P (1497) Jugoslavija 74/(424) 2014 The Benko Gambit: MBM [Budovskis, Latvian CC mag 5/ 95 p20]]

7.cxd4 Nh6 8.Bb5 Nf5 The position is equal. **9.Nc3 Bd7 10.0-0 a6**

[10...Nfxd4? 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Bxc6 Qxd1 13.Bxd7+ Kxd7 14.Rxd1+-]

11.Bxc6

[11.a5 with more complications. Nxa5 12.Bxd7+ Kxd7 13.g4]

11...Bxc6 12.Ne2 Be7 13.b3 0-0-0 0.50/20

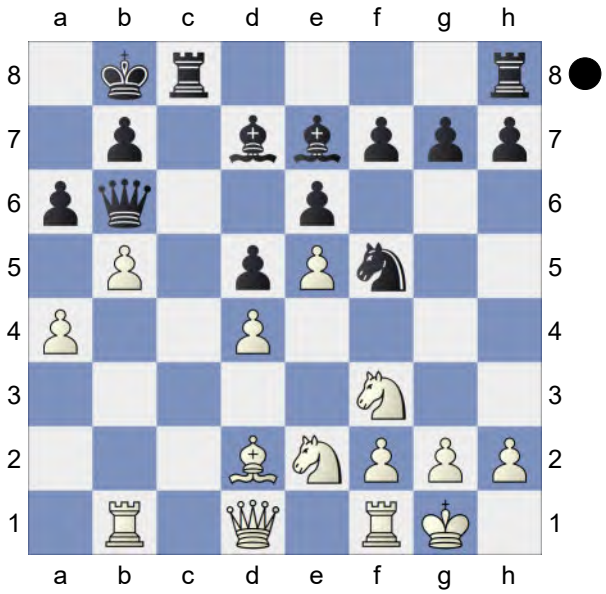
[13...Bd7= 0.10/20 was preferrable.]

14.Bd2 Kb8 15.b4 Rc8

[15...Bxb4? 16.a5 Qb5 17.Rb1+-]

16.Rb1 b5! is the strong threat. **16...Bd7** Inhibits b5. **17.b5**

(Diagram)



Inhibits Qc6. Hoping for g4. **17...axb5**

18.axb5 Rc4 1.44/24

[18...Bxb5? 19.Qb3+-]

[⌓18...h5 0.73/23]

19.Qb3 0.78/23

[⌓19.g4 1.44/24]

19...g5 1.44/23

[⌓19...Rhc8 0.78/23]

20.h3± Strongly threatening g4.

[20.Nxg5?! Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Qxd4±]

20...h5 21.Bxg5 Rb4 1.68/24

[21...Bxg5± 1.35/22 22.Nxg5 Be8]

22.Qa2+- Black must now prevent Rxb4.

22...Rxb5 2.13/24

[22...Qxb5 1.73/24 keeps fighting. 23.Bxe7 *(23.Ra1 Ra4=)* 23...Nxe7 24.Rxb4 *(24.Ra1 Ra4±)* 24...Qxb4]

23.Ng3

[Don't take 23.Ra1?! Rc8 24.Bxe7 Nxe7±]

23...Bxg5 2.40/25

[⌓23...Nxg3 1.83/25 24.Bxe7 Ne4]

24.Nxf5 exf5 25.Nxg5 Qxd4? 5.02/26

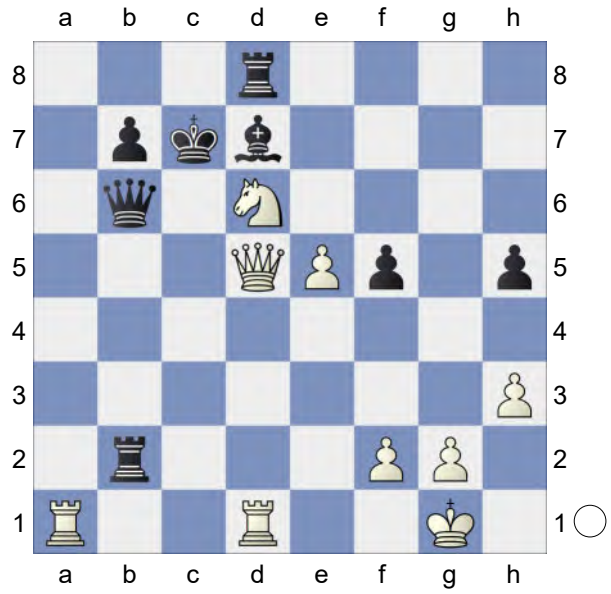
[25...Qa7 2.65/24 26.Qd2 Qa5 27.Qxa5 Rxa5 28.Nxf7 Rg8]

26.Ra1 White is clearly winning.

26...Kc7 27.Nxf7 Rg8 7.46/24

[⌓27...Rf8 4.75/24 28.Qa3 Qb4

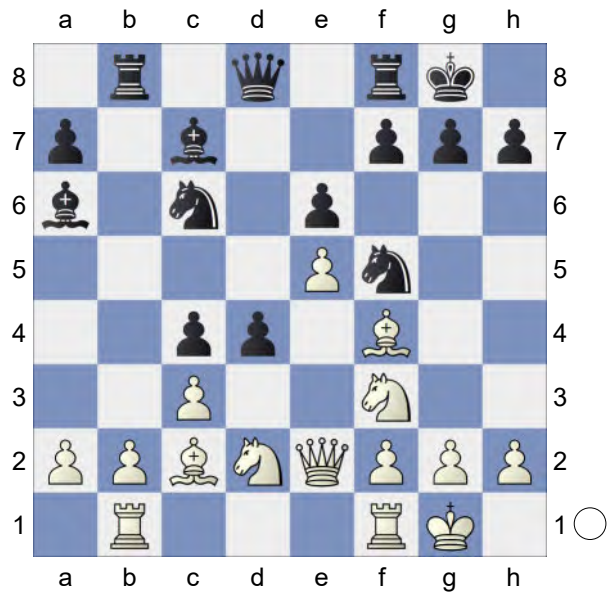
29.Rfc1+ Bc6]
28.Nd6 aiming for Rfc1+. **28...Rb4 29.Qa5+ Qb6 30.Qxd5** White wants to mate with Rfc1+. **30...Rd8 31.Nc4** 4.17/21 Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.38
[⌓31.Rfd1 10.34/24 Rb2



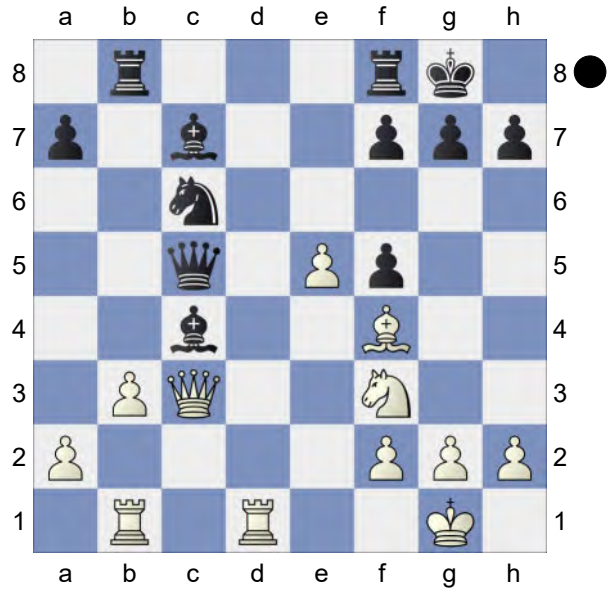
32.Nxb7!]
1-0

D02
☐ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (2.2) 19.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4 **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.c3 Bd6**
[5...cxd4 6.exd4 Bd6 7.Bg3 Nf6 8.Bd3 Bxg3 9.hxg3 h6 10.Nbd2 Qb6 11.Rb1 Bd7 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.Ndf3 Qa5 14.a3 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Ba4 16.Qe2 0-0 17.g4 Nd7 18.g5 Nxe5 19.Qxe5 Qc7 20.Qe3 Yurukova,G (1638)-Joya,R FIDE Online Arena INT 2024 0-1]
6.Bg3 Nh6N
[6...Nge7 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Bd3 *(8.Ne5 cxd4 9.exd4 f6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bd3 e5 12.0-0 e4 13.Be2 f5 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.f4 a5 16.g3 a4 17.Re1 c5 18.Nf1 Nc6 19.Qd2 Be6 20.Bb5 cxd4 21.cxd4 Ne7 22.Rec1 Rfb8* Lesson 2 Rare 4th moves (2288)-Mladenov,P (2672) Ljubljana 2023 Schallopp-Riemann [John Watson] 0-1 (42) *)* 8...cxd4 9.exd4 *(9.cxd4 Nf5 10.Bxf5 exf5 11.0-0 f4 12.Bxf4 Bxf4 13.exf4 Qf6 14.Nb3 Qxf4 15.Qd2 Qxd2 16.Nbxd2 f6 17.a3 Bg4 18.h3 Bxf3 19.Nxf3 Rfe8 20.Rfe1 Kf7 21.Kf1 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Re8 23.Rxe8 Kxe8* Tabatabaei,M (2677)-Bluebaum,M (2663) Chess.com INT 2023 ½-½ (59) *)* 9...f6 10.Qc2 h6 11.0-0 e5 12.dxe5 fxe5 13.Bb5 e4 14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 Nf5 16.Nb3 Be6 17.Nc5 Nxd4 18.Nxe6 Nxc2 19.Nxd8 Raxd8 20.Bxd6 Rxd6 21.Rad1 Lobo,R (2188)-Mladenov,P (2663) Groningen 2023 17 c5, Nf6 and g6: model [John Watson] 0-1 (37) Nb4 22.a3 Nc6 23.Rfe1 Rfd8 24.Rd2 Kf7 25.Ba4 Kf6 26.f3 exf3 27.gxf3 Ne5 28.Kf2 Nc4 29.Rc2 Rb6 30.Ree2 Nd6 31.Rcd2 Nc4 32.Rc2 Ne5 33.Red2 d4 34.b4 g5 35.Rc5 Ra6 36.Bd1 Lehtosaari,M (2188)-Bluebaum,M (2663) Chess.com INT 2023 Mega2023 Update 17 [MH] 0-1 (37)]
7.Bd3 0-0 8.Nbd2 White is slightly better. **8...b6 9.Qe2 Bb7 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.e4 Rb8 12.e5** -0.41/21
[12.0-0-0= 0.05/20]
12...Bc7 13.0-0 Nf5 14.Bf4 c4 15.Bc2 Ba6 16.Rab1 d4



aiming for ...d3. **17.Nxc4 Qd5** 0.37/22
[17...Na5= -0.07/23 feels stronger. 18.Bd3 dxc3]
18.b3!± Strongly threatening Rfd1.
[Much worse is 18.Bd3 dxc3 19.b3 *(19.bxc3? Na5-+)* 19...Rfd8∓]
18...dxc3 Threatens to win with ...Ncd4.
19.Rfd1 Qc5 20.Bxf5 exf5 21.Qc2 Bxc4 22.Qxc3



Pin **22...Bb6** 0.74/25 **23.Be3± Qb4 24.Qxc4 Qxc4 25.bxc4 Bxe3 26.fxe3 h6 27.Rb5 Rfc8** 1.44/22
[⌓27...Rbc8 0.90/22]
28.Kf2 0.85/21
[⌓28.Rd6 1.44/22 Black must now prevent Rxc6! Nb4 29.Nd4]
28...Kf8 1.39/22
[⌓28...a6 0.85/21 29.Rxb8 Rxb8]
29.Rd6 And now Rxc6! would win. &Bianco is more active. **29...Nd8** 1.99/24
[29...Nb4± 1.30/23]
30.Nd4 1.49/24
[White should try 30.Rxb8+- 1.99/24 Rxb8 31.Nd4]
30...g6 2.37/25
[30...Ra8± 1.49/24 31.Rbd5 *(31.Nxf5 Rxc4 32.Rd7 Kg8±)* 31...Ne6]
31.Rxb8+- Rxb8 32.c5 Nb7 33.Rd5 Nd8 34.c6 Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.23 (precise)
1-0

A06
□ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
■ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (2.3) 19.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

A06: Réti Opening: 1 Nf3 d5 E60: King's Indian: Unusual lines and Fianchetto Variation without Nc3 **1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 c5 3.e3 g6 4.Bb2 Nf6 5.c4 dxc4 6.bxc4**
[6.Bxc4 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 a6 10.Be2 Bd7 11.Nd2 Nc6 12.Bf3 Rc8 13.Rc1 Nb4 14.Nc4 b5 15.Ne5 Rxc1 16.Qxc1 Nfd5 17.Nxd7 Qxd7 18.Rd1 e5 19.Nc2 Qc6 20.a3 Qxc2 Das,S (2434)-Patil,P (2298) Chennai IND 2025 The Week in Chess 1574 [Kitty Kat] 1-0 (67)]
6...Bg7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 b6N
[8...Nc6 9.Ne5 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 Bd7 11.Qc2 Bc6 12.d3 Ne8 13.Bc3 Qd7

14.a4 Nc7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qb2+ f6 17.d4 cxd4 18.exd4 e6 19.a5 Qd6 20.Rd1 Rad8 21.Nc3 Rf7 22.Rd3 Na6 23.Rad1 Reversed Qid Model Games-Jianchao Zhou Vs Alexander,S (44)]

9.d3 Bb7 10.Nbd2 Nc6 11.Ne5 Qc7 12.f4 Rad8 13.Qb3 Ne8 14.Ndf3 Na5 15.Qc2 Nd6 16.e4 Against Nf5 **16...f6 17.Ng4 Nc6 18.Rae1 Nf7 19.f5 gxf5 20.exf5 Kh8 21.Qb3** -0.67/22

[21.Qd2= -0.27/20]

21...Qd7 22.Ne3 -1.02/22

[22.Qd1∓ -0.59/20 feels stronger.]

22...Bh6∓ 23.Nd5 -1.38/21

[⌓23.Ng4 -0.98/23]

23...Nd6!

[Much weaker is 23...Qxf5?! 24.Ne5! Qxf1+ 25.Bxf1±]

24.g4 -1.65/21

[24.Nh4∓ -1.21/23]

24...Rg8-+ 25.Nh4 Nb4 26.Bf3 Nxd5 27.cxd5 Rg7 -0.85/21

[Black should try 27...Bg5 -1.36/21 28.Ng2 h5]

28.Re6 -1.76/21

[28.Ng2∓ -0.85/21 keeps fighting.]

28...Nf7 -1.32/20

[Black should play 28...Bg5!-+ -1.76/21 29.Ng2 h5]

29.Rc6? -3.77/21

[29.Re2∓ -1.32/20]

29...Be3+ 30.Kh1 Bxc6 31.dxc6 Qxd3 32.Qxd3 Rxd3 33.c7 -2.82/24

[33.Ng2 -1.64/21 was the only chance.]

33...Nd6 -1.61/23

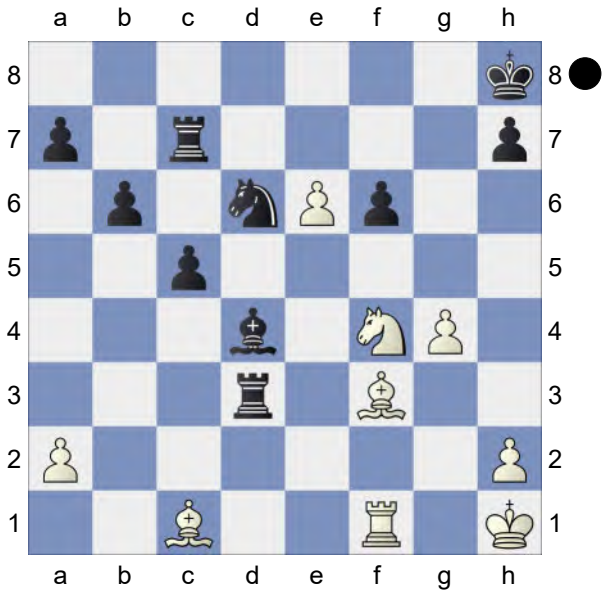
[⌓33...Rg8 -2.82/24 aiming for ...Rc8. 34.Re1 Nd6]

34.Ng2 Bd4 35.Bc1 e5 -1.16/23

[35...Rg8-+ -1.74/23 36.Nf4 Rxf3! 37.Rxf3 Rxg4]

36.fxe6∓ Strongly threatening Be2.

36...Rxc7 37.Nf4



Rxf3 38.Rxf3 Re7 39.Rf1 -1.67/21

[39.Kg2∓ -1.19/21]

39...Nc4 -1.06/22

[39...Ne8-+ -1.67/21 40.Re1 Nc7]

40.Re1 Ne5 41.Kg2 Re8

[Much worse is 41...Nxg4?! 42.Nd5 Re8 43.Nc7=]

42.h3 Ng6 43.Nxg6+ hxg6 Endgame KRB-KRB **44.h4** -1.55/23 Prevents g5.

[⌓44.Bf4 -1.20/22]

44...b5 45.Bf4 Kg7 46.Bd6 a5 47.e7 Kf7 48.Kf3 -2.25/23

[48.h5∓ -1.45/23 might work better.]

48...c4 -1.08/23

[48...a4-+ -2.25/23 And now ...b4 would win. 49.Rc1 Rc8]

49.h5 gxh5 50.gxh5 Bc3 51.Re2 -1.84/23

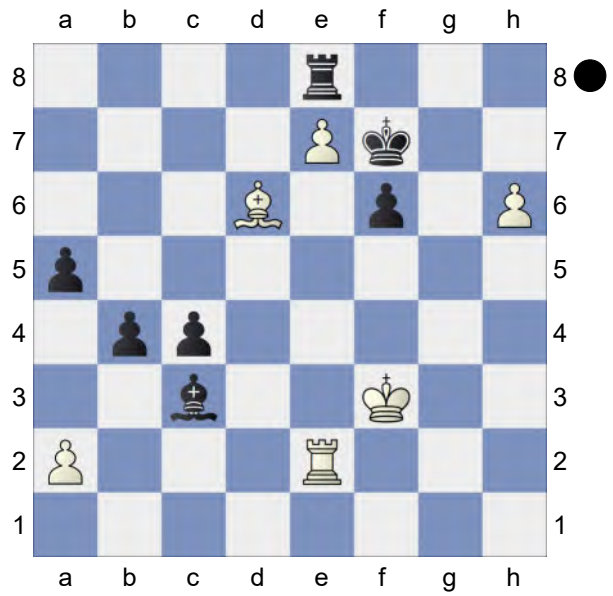
[51.Rb1!= -0.27/21 and White has nothing to worry.]

51...b4!-+ 52.h6

(Diagram)

b3? -0.06/22

[52...a4!-+ -2.07/22 White must now



prevent ...b3. 53.Rg2 b3]

53.axb3= cxb3 ...b2 is the strong threat. **54.Ba3** Against b2 **54...Kg6 55.Rh2 Kh7 56.Kg4 Be5 57.Rh1 Kg6** Black wants to play ...f5+. **58.h7 f5+ 59.Kf3 a4 60.Ke3 Kf7** 0.00/23

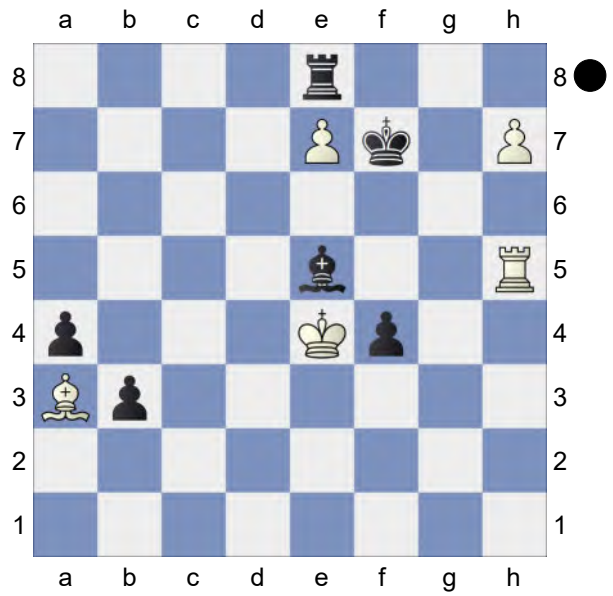
[60...b2!∓ -0.38/26]

61.Rh5 -0.47/24

[61.Rf1= 0.00/23 is superior.]

61...Kg6 -0.01/23

[61...f4+!∓ -0.47/24 is more appropriate. 62.Ke4



b2!]

62.Rh1 Bf6 -0.01/24

[62...b2!∓ -0.38/24]

63.Kd3 Rc8 64.Rc1 The board is on fire. **64...Re8 65.Rh1! Kf7** 0.00/25

[65...f4∓ -0.35/24 might be stronger.]

66.Rf1 Kg6 67.Rh1 Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)

½-½

D24

□ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2717**

■ **Gukesh D** **2777**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (2.4) 19.01.25

[Kitty Kat]

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5**

[7.Be2 is more complex. a6 8.Bg5 f6 9.exf6 gxf6 10.Ne5]

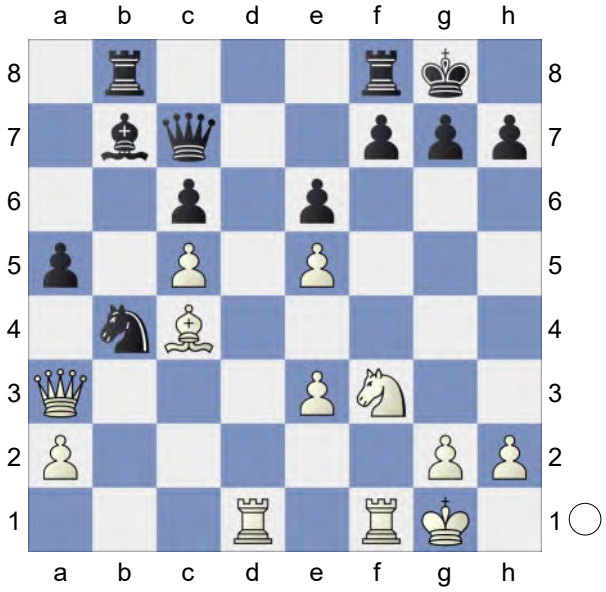
7...Nb6 8.Nc3 White is slightly better.

[8.Be2 Be7 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Qd2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Qd7 12.Qf4 g5 13.Nxg5 Bxg5 14.Qxg5 Ne7 15.d5 Nbxd5 16.a4 Rg8 17.Qd2 a6 18.Nd4 0-0-0 19.f3 Ng6 20.Bxc4 c5 21.Nc2 Nh4 22.Ne1 Rxg2+ 11.Qf2 Bd4 12. Bd4_16296 (2613) -Tymrakiewicz,R (2712) Havana 2019 77 telechess [Hollis] 0-1]

8...Nc6 9.Be3 Bb7 10.Be2 Ne7N

[10...Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qb1 Nb4 13.Rd1 Rb8 14.Nd2 N4d5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Bf3 Qb5 17.Bxb7 Rxb7 18.Qc2 c5 19.dxc5 Bxc5 20.a4 Qb4 21.Bxc5 Qxc5 22.a5 Nd7 23.Nxc4 Nxe5 24.Qe4 Nc6 25.Ne3 Wang,Q (2149)-Shuvalova,P (2483) Shaoxing CHN 2024 CBM 223 [Grigoriants,Sergey] ½-½ (35)]

11.b3 cxb3! 12.Qxb3 Nf5 13.Bb5+! c6 14.Bd3 Be7 15.0-0 Nxe3 16.fxe3 0-0 17.Ne4 Inhibits c5. **17...Rb8 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.dxc5 Nd5 20.Qa3** Prevents Ba6. **20...a5 21.Rad1 Qc7 22.Bc4 Nb4**



23.Rd6! Ba6 24.Bxa6 Nxa6 25.Rc1 &Bianco is more active. **25...Nb4 26.h3 Qa7** 0.84/24

[26...Nd5± 0.36/21]

27.e4 Qa6 28.Kf2 0.12/23 Against Qe2+

[28.Nd4± 0.74/23]

28...h6 29.Rc3 a4 0.65/23

[29...Rfc8!= 0.11/23]

30.Rd4!± Qb5 31.Rcc4 Na6 32.Kg3 0.03/24

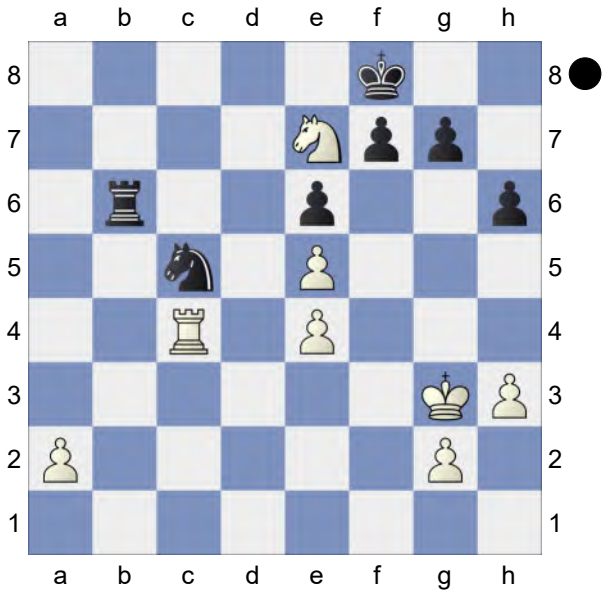
[32.Rxa4± 0.43/22 Nxc5 33.Ra5 *(33.Rac4 Nd7=)* 33...Qb2+ 34.Qxb2 Rxb2+ 35.Ke3]

32...Rfd8= The position is equal.

33.Rxa4 Rxd4

[33...Nxc5? 34.Ra5 Qe2 35.Rxd8+ *(35.Qxc5 Rxd4 36.Qxd4 Rb2+-)* 35...Rxd8 36.Qxc5+-]

34.Nxd4 Qxc5 35.Qxc5 Nxc5 36.Nxc6 Endgame KRN-KRN **36...Rb6 37.Ne7+ Kf8 38.Rc4**



Nxe4+! 39.Rxe4 Hoping for Nc8. **39...Kxe7 40.Rg4 g6 41.Re4 Rb1 42.h4 Kf8 43.Kf3 Ke7** Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

½-½

B30

□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2695**

■ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2741**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (2.5) 19.01.25

[Kitty Kat]

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines without ...g6 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Nc3 Qc7 5.0-0 Nd4 6.Re1 a6 7.Bf1 Ng4** (→ ... Nxf3+) **8.g3** aiming for Nxd4. **8...Nxf3+ 9.Qxf3** White is slightly better. **9...Ne5 10.Qe2 e6 11.d3** 0.29/21

[11.b3± 0.64/19 is superior.]

11...d6= 12.Be3 Nc6 13.f4 Be7 14.Qf2 0-0 15.Bg2 Bd7N

[15...b5 16.e5 dxe5 17.Bxc5 Bb7 18.fxe5 Rac8 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.d4 Qb4 21.Rab1 Rfd8 22.d5 exd5 23.Nxd5 Qd4 24.Qxd4 Nxd4

25.Ne7+ Kf8 26.Nxc8 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 Rxc8 28.c3 Ne6 29.Rbd1 b4 30.Re3 Ellithorpe,G (2701)-Coll Sola,J (2626) Astana 2020 200 Traps In The Opening [Chess Archives 1964] 1-0 (51) g5 31.Rd2 bxc3 32.Rxc3 Rb8 33.b3 Rb5 34.Re3 Kg7 35.Kf3 Kg6 36.Ke4 Rb4+ 37.Kd3 h5 38.Kc3 Rb8 39.Rf3 Rc8+ 40.Kb2 g4 41.Rf6+ Kg7 42.Rd7 Ng5 43.Rxa6 Re8 44.Ra5 Nf3 45.e6 Adams,M (2725)-Caruana,F (2757) Baden-Baden 2013 CBM 156 [Pavlovic,Milos] ½-½ (51)]

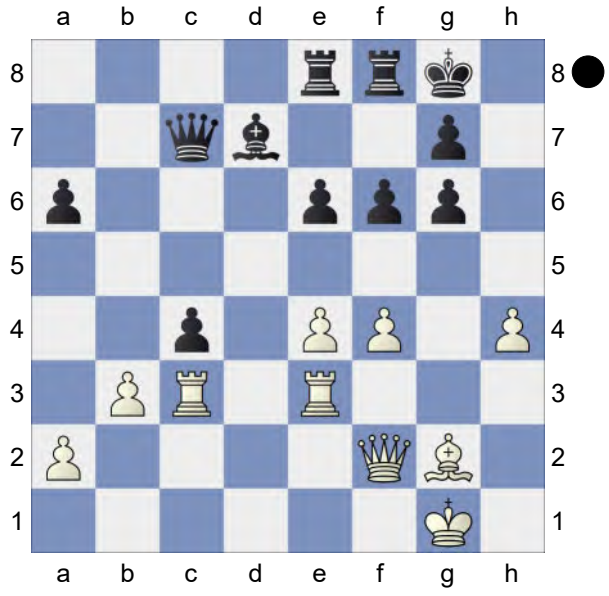
16.g4 b5 17.h4 Nd4 18.Rac1 Rae8 19.Ne2 Nxe2+ 20.Rxe2

[20.Qxe2 is more complex. Bxh4 21.Rf1 e5 22.fxe5 Rxe5 23.Bf4]

20...d5 21.g5 d4 22.Bd2 c4 23.c3 dxc3 24.Rxc3 f6 next ...fxg5 is good for Black. **25.g6** -0.38/19

[25.Be3= -0.03/19]

25...hxg6∓ 26.dxc4 bxc4 27.b3 Bc5 28.Be3 Bxe3 29.Rexe3

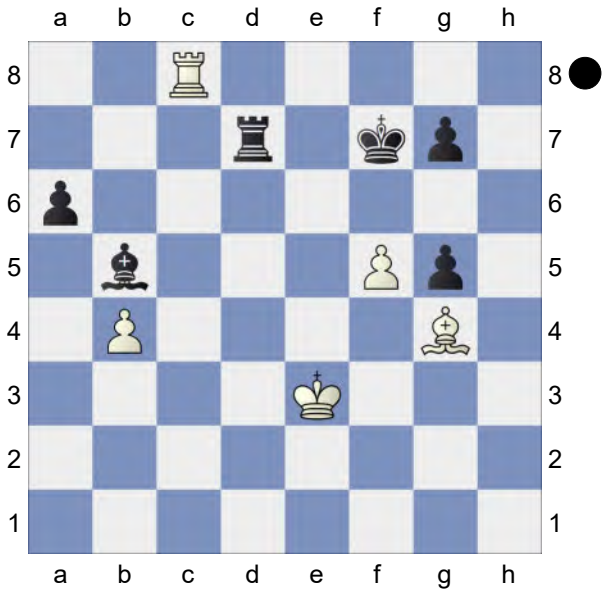


g5! 30.f5 Qf4 31.hxg5 Qxf2+

[Of course not 31...Qxg5 32.Rg3 Qh5 33.Bf3=]

32.Kxf2 cxb3 33.axb3 fxg5 34.Rc7 Bb5 35.Bh3 exf5 36.exf5 Rxe3 37.Kxe3 Endgame KRB-KRB **37...Rd8 38.Bg4 Rd7 39.Rc8+ Kf7 40.b4** -0.99/26

[40.Rb8!∓ -0.50/26]



40...Kf6!∓ ...Rd3+ is the strong threat.

41.Rf8+ Rf7 42.Rb8 Rc7 43.Rb6+ Rc6 44.Rb7 -1.59/27

[White should try 44.Rxc6+ -1.17/29 Bxc6 45.Kf2]

44...Rc3+ 45.Kf2 Rd3 46.Bh5 Rd7 Prevents Rf7+.

[Worse is 46...Kxf5 47.Rf7+ Ke5 48.Rxg7∓]

47.Rb8 -1.72/25

[47.Rxd7∓ -1.24/25 is a better defense. Bxd7 48.Bf3]

47...Kxf5-+ 48.Rf8+ Ke5 49.Bg6 -2.70/24

[49.Re8+∓ -1.54/23 might work better. Kd4 50.Rc8]

49...Kd4 Threatens to win with ...Rd6.

50.Rc8 Rd6 51.Bh5 Rc6 Against Rc5

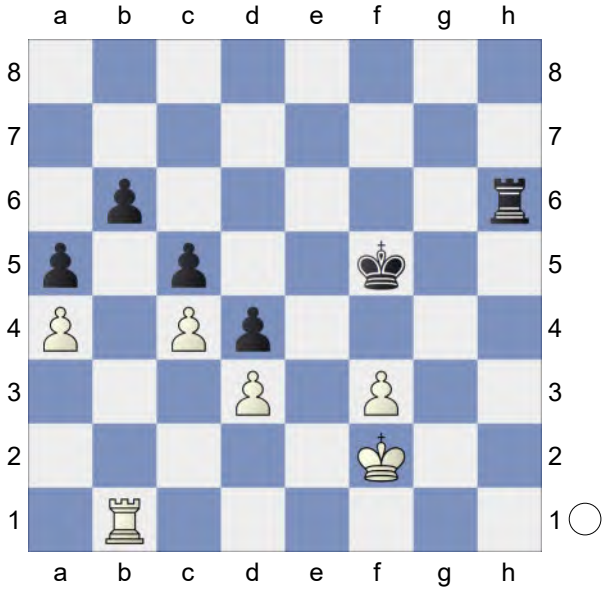
52.Rg8 Rc7 53.Kg3 Kc3 54.Bd1 Kxb4 55.Kg4 a5 Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.02

(flawless)
0-1

C48

□ **Sarana,Alexey** **2677**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2751**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (2.6) 19.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

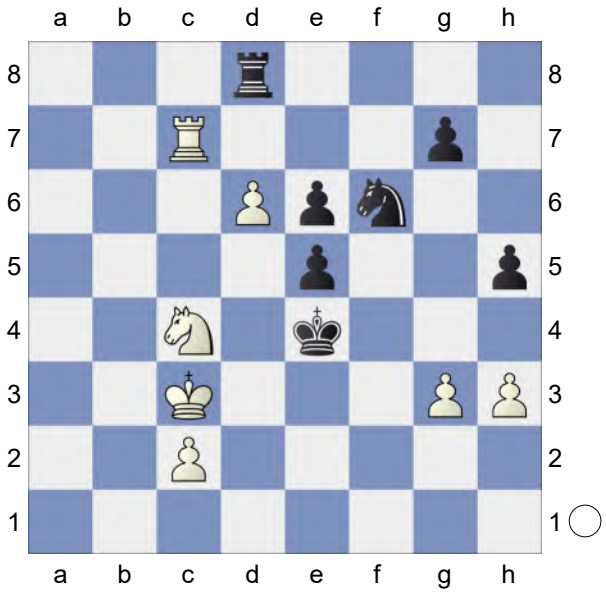
C48: Four Knights: 4 Bb5, replies other than 4...Bb4 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Nxd4 exd4 6.e5 dxc3 7.exf6 Qxf6 8.dxc3 Bc5 9.Qe2+ Qe6**
[9...Qe7 looks sharper. 10.0-0 c6 11.Re1 d5]
10.Qxe6+N
[10.0-0 0-0 11.Qf3 d6 12.Bg5 Qf5 13.Be7 Qxf3 14.gxf3 a6 15.Ba4 b5 16.b4 Re8 17.Rfe1 Bb6 18.Bb3 Bb7 19.Kg2 d5 20.Re5 c6 21.Rae1 Bc7 22.R5e2 Bc8 23.a4 Bd7 24.Bh4 Rxe2 Short,N (2698)-Kramnik,V (2800) London ENG 2011 [Mikhalevski, V] 0-1 (62)]
[10.Bc4 Qxe2+ 11.Bxe2 *(11.Kxe2 d6 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Kxe3 Be6 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.f4 Rf8 16.Rhf1 Kd7 17.Rf3 Rae8 18.Raf1 Rf5 19.g4 Ra5 20.a3 Ra4 21.Rh3 h6 22.g5 hxg5 23.fxg5 Rg4 24.Rh5 e5 25.Rf7+ Re7* Kashdan,I-Alekhine,A Bled 1931 Tournaments [Kmoch: Bled, 159] ½-½ (49) *)* 11...d5 12.Bf4 c6 13.0-0 Be6 14.Bd3 f6 15.Rfe1 Kf7 16.Be3 Bd6 17.f3 c5 18.g3 h5 19.Kf2 h4 20.Rg1 hxg3+ 21.hxg3 Bd7 22.c4 d4 23.Bd2 Rh2+ 24.Rg2 Rah8 Pastor Carvajal,J (2088)-Duran Vega,S (2313) San Jose 2024 0-1 (46)]
10...fxe6 11.a4 a6 12.Bd3 a5 13.h4 0-0 14.f3 e5 15.Bd2 d6 16.c4 Bf5 17.0-0-0 Bxd3 18.cxd3 h5 19.Rhe1 b6 20.Re4 Rf5 21.Rde1 Raf8 22.Bc3 Rf4 23.Bd2 R4f5 24.Bc3 Bf2 25.R1e2 Bg3 26.Be1 Bf4+ 27.Bd2 c5 28.Bxf4 Rxf4= Endgame KRR-KRR **29.Kd2 R4f5 30.Ke3 R5f6 31.Rf2 Kf7 32.g4 Kg6** 0.20/28
[32...g6!∓ -0.46/27]
33.gxh5+ The position is equal. **33...Kxh5 34.Rg4 g6 35.Rg5+ Kh6!**
[35...Kxh4? 36.Rg1 Rxf3+ 37.Rxf3+-]
36.Rg3 Rf4 37.Rh2 R8f5 38.b3 Rf6 39.Rh1 R6f5 40.Rhg1 Rf6 41.Rh1 Rd4 42.Rg4 d5 43.Rxd4 exd4+ KR-KR **44.Kf2 dxc4 45.bxc4 Re6 46.Rb1 Kh5 47.Kg3 g5! 48.hxg5 Kxg5 49.Rb2 Kf5 50.Rb1 Rg6+ 51.Kf2 Rh6**



White must now prevent ...Kf4. **52.Kg3 Rg6+ 53.Kf2 Rh6** Strongly threatening ...Kf4. **54.Kg3** A rather calm draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

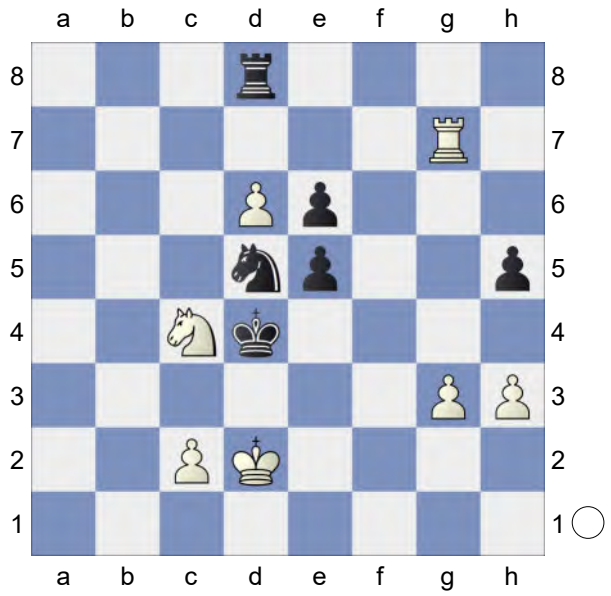
B92
□ **Erigaisi Arjun** 2801
■ **Giri,Anish** 2731
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (2.7) 19.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

B92: Sicilian Najdorf: 6 Be2
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3
[7.Nf3 h6 8.0-0 Be6 9.a4 Nc6 10.b3 Rc8 11.Bb2 Be7 12.Re1 0-0 13.Bf1 B 92/02 2002]
7...Be7 8.Qd3N
[8.0-0 0-0 9.Kh1 Nc6 10.f4 a5 11.a4 Nb4 12.Be3 Be6 13.Bb5 Qc7 14.Nd2 Rfd8 15.f5 Bd7 16.Rc1 d5 17.exd5 Nbxd5 18.Nxd5 Nxd5 19.Qe2 Bc6 20.c3 h6 21.Ne4 Nf6 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 0-1 (36) Schliemann Gambit (2500)-5..g6 6. Nf3?! (2465) 108: Simultaneous Display 2001 (8) 23.Rcd1 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Rd8 25.Rxd8+ Bxd8 26.h3 Bd7 27.Bxd7 Qxd7 28.Qd2 Qe8 29.Qd5 Bf6 30.b3 Qc8 31.Qd3 e4 32.Qxe4 Qxc3 33.Qe8+ Kh7 34.Bb6 Qa1+ 35.Kh2 Be5+ 36.g3 0-1 Khusnutdinova,L (2500)-Pantaleon,S (2465) 108: Simultaneous Display 2001 (8)]
8...Be6 9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.exd5 The position is equal. **10...Bc8 11.a4 a5 12.0-0 0-0 13.f4 Nd7 14.Kh1 b6 15.Qd1 Ba6** 0.86/20
[15...Nc5= -0.04/17]
16.Bxa6± Rxa6 17.fxe5! dxe5 18.d6 Dodges Qc7 **18...Bg5 19.Bxg5 Qxg5 20.Qd5!** Hoping for Qb7. **20...Qg4 21.Nd2 Qe6 22.Qxe6 fxe6 23.Rxf8+ Kxf8** Endgame. KRN-KRN **24.Nc4 Ra8 25.Kg1 Kf7 26.Kf2 Rc8 27.b3 Kg6 28.Ke3 Rf8** 1.41/21 Against Rf1
[⌓28...Rc5 0.84/22]
29.g3 h5 30.Rd1 Kg5 31.h3 1.00/23
[White should play 31.Re1 1.60/23]
31...Kg6 32.Ke2 Rc8 33.Rf1 Rc5 34.Kd3 White has more active pieces. **34...Rd5+ 35.Kc3 Rc5 36.b4 axb4+** 1.59/22
[Black should try 36...Rd5 1.05/22 37.Kb3 Rd4]
37.Kxb4 Nxb6! is the strong threat. **37...Rc8** 2.01/23
[37...Rd5± 1.58/24 38.Rh1 Kh6]
38.Ra1 Kf5 39.a5 0.59/17
[Don't do 39.Rf1+?! Ke4±]
[39.c3+- 1.85/22]
39...bxa5+± 40.Rxa5 Ke4! 41.Ra7 Rb8+ 1.03/23
[41...Kd5= 0.20/24 remains equal. 42.Na3 Nb6 *(42...Kxd6 43.Nc4+ Kc6 44.Ra6+ Kc7 45.Rxe6±)*]
42.Kc3± Rd8 43.Rc7 Strongly threatening Na5. **43...Nf6**



44.Rxg7 0.01/21
[44.Kb4!± 1.08/21]
44...Nd5+!= 45.Kd2 Threatening d7. **45...Kd4** 0.90/23
[45...Nb6= 0.01/26 keeps the balance. 46.Rc7 *(46.Nxb6 Rxd6+ 47.Kc1 Rxb6=)* 46...Nxc4+ 47.Rxc4+

Kf3]

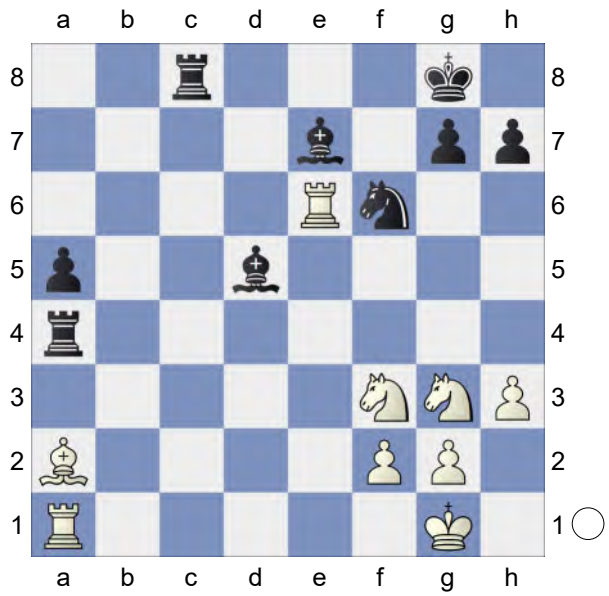


46.Na3 0.41/23
[46.Rc7!± 0.90/23]
46...Nc3± 47.d7 e4 48.Ke1 Kc5 49.Kd2 Kd4 50.Ke1 -0.01/19
[50.Re7!± 0.57/22]
50...Kc5= 51.Kd2 -0.01/34
Black escapes into a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)
[51.Rh7± 0.47/21]
½-½

B50
□ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**
■ **Sarana,Alexey** **2677**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (3.1) 20.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 a6 5.a4**
[5.c3 b5 6.Bb3 e6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.Re1 Be7 9.Nbd2 Nbd7 10.d4 0-0 11.Bc2 Qc7 12.Nf1 Rfc8 13.Bd3 e5 14.d5 c4 15.Bc2 Nc5 16.Ng3 Rcb8 17.b4 cxb3 18.axb3 Bc8 19.h3 a5 Anand,V (2751)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2735) London 2024 0-1 (48)]
5...e6
[5...Nc6 6.0-0 h6 7.Nc3 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.Nd5 e6 10.Nf4 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 h5 12.Ne2 Ne5 13.Qe3 g5 14.Bb3 Bh6 15.f4 gxf4 16.Nxf4 h4 17.Qf2 Nfd7 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Nxe6 Qb6 20.a5 Rapport,R (2721)-Maghsoodloo,P (2719) London 2024 Mega2024 Update 50 [Kitty Kat] 1-0 (33)]
6.0-0 Be7 7.Nbd2N
[7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Be3 Bd7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Rad1 Qc7 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Nd2 Nxb3 13.Nxb3 Rfd8 14.h3 b5 15.Ra1 b4 16.Nb1 Bc6 17.N1d2 Nd7 18.f3 Nb6 19.a5 Nd7 20.Bf2 Bf6 21.Rab1 Bb5 Blumenthal,M-Mcgunnigle,T corr_219033 1961 UltraCorr3a [Chess Review Aug 1962 p252] 1-0 (40)]
7...b6 8.Re1 The position is equal.
8...Bb7 9.Ba2 Nc6 10.c3 Qc7 11.Nf1 Rc8 12.Ng3 0-0 13.h3 b5 14.Bb1 b4 15.Bg5 -0.35/18
[15.d4= -0.04/19]
15...a5 16.d4 bxc3 17.bxc3 cxd4 18.cxd4 Nb4 Against d5 **19.Qd2 Qc3 20.Qxc3 Rxc3 21.d5 Rfc8**
[21...exd5 feels hotter. 22.Nf5 Bd8 23.Nxd6 dxe4 24.Nxe4 Bxe4 25.Bxe4 Nxe4 26.Rxe4 Bxg5 27.Nxg5 f6]
22.Bd2 R3c4 23.dxe6 fxe6 24.Bxb4 Rxb4
[Much less strong is 24...axb4 25.Ba2±]
25.Ba2 d5 0.33/23
[25...Rc2= 0.01/23]
26.exd5± Bxd5 27.Rxe6 Rxa4

(Diagram)



White must now prevent ...Kf8. **28.Rxe7** Hoping for Bxd5+. **28...Rxa2 29.Rxa2 Bxa2 30.Ra7 Bd5 31.Rxa5 Bxf3 32.gxf3=** Endgame KRN-KRN **32...Rf8 33.Kg2 h6 34.Nf5 Kh7 35.Ne3 Rf7 36.f4 Rc7 37.Kf3 Rb7 38.f5**
[38.Ng4!?]
38...Rb3 39.Kg2 Rb4 40.Rc5 Ra4 41.f3 Nh5 42.Kf2 0.10/22 Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) / Black=0.07 (flawless)
[42.Rc4± 0.41/21 Ra2+ 43.Rc2]
½-½

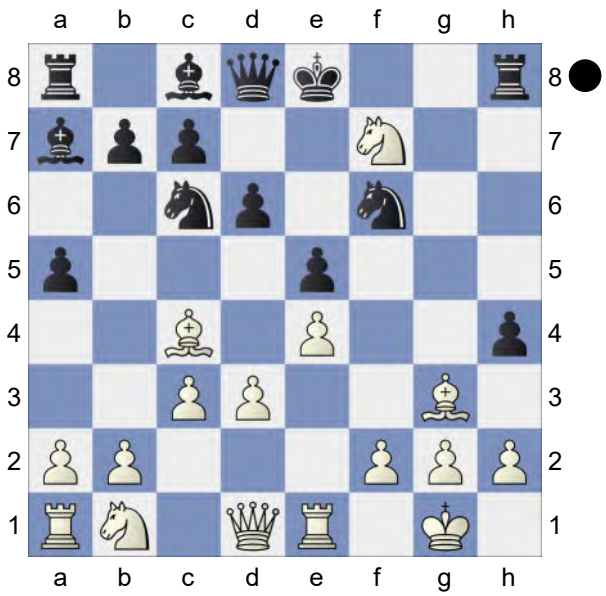
C54

□ **Wei,Yi** **2751**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (3.2) 20.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 a5 6.0-0 d6 7.Bg5**
[7.Re1 Ba7 *(7...0-0 8.h3 Ba7 9.Bb3 h6 10.Nbd2 Be6 11.Ba4 Rb8 12.Nf1 b5 13.Bc2 Re8 14.d4 Bd7 15.Ng3 Bb6 16.Be3 a4 17.Qd2 Kh7 18.b4 axb3 19.axb3 Na5 20.dxe5 dxe5 21.Bxb6 cxb6 22.Nxe5* Aryan,C (2620)-Kourkoulos Arditis,S (2570) Mamaia 2024 1-0 (40)*)* 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.h3 Be6 10.Bb5 Ne7 11.d4 Ng6 12.Ba4 Nh5 13.Nf1 Nhf4 14.Ng3 exd4 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.cxd4 d5 17.e5 f6 18.Bxf4 Nxf4 19.Nh5 Nxh5 20.Qxh5 f5 21.f4 Qe7 Niemann,H (2667)-Caruana,F (2786) Saint Louis 2023 CBM 219 [Edouard, Romain] 0-1 (43)]
7...h6 8.Bh4 Ba7N
[8...g5 9.Bg3 0-0 10.a4 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Na3 Qd7 13.Nc2 Bb6 14.Ne3 Ne7 15.Bb3 Kh8 16.Bc2 Rg8 17.d4 exd4 18.cxd4 Rae8 19.Re1 Ba7 20.Ra3 Bg6 21.Ne5 Qc8 22.Nxg6+ fxg6 23.e5 Chapter-Game Game 2 (31) Nfd5 24.exd6 cxd6 25.Bxd6 Qd7 26.Be5+ Kh7 27.Be4 Rd8 28.Ng4 Rgf8 29.Rf3 h5 30.Ne3 Nxe3 31.Rf7+ 1-0 (31) Vachier Lagrave,M (2795)-Gledura,B (2602) Chartres FRA 2017 [Mikhalevski,V]]
9.Re1 g5 10.Bg3 h5 11.h4
[11.Nxg5 h4 12.Nxf7 *(12.Bxf7+? Ke7-+)*

(Diagram)

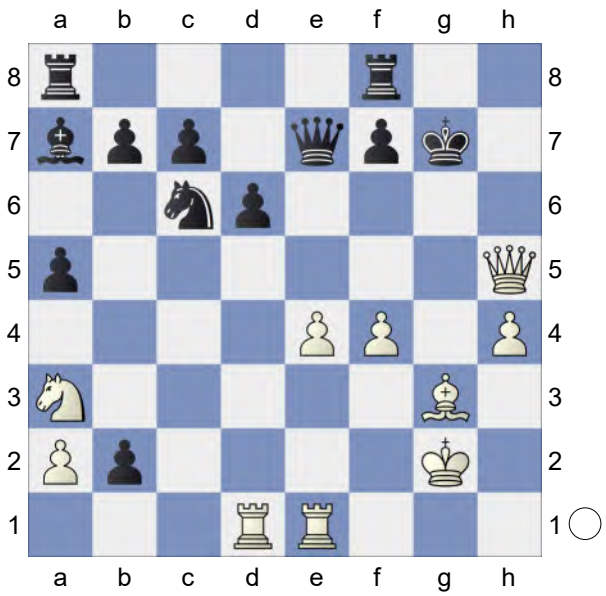
12...hxg3! 13.hxg3 Qd7 14.Nxh8 Qh7∓]
11...g4 12.Ng5 -0.03/22
[12.Nfd2± 0.36/19 feels stronger.]
12...0-0= 13.Na3 Qe7 0.39/20
[13...Nh7!= -0.10/19 is more appropriate. 14.Qd2 Nxg5 15.Qxg5+ Qxg5 16.hxg5 Kg7]
14.d4± Kg7 15.f4 -0.30/22
[15.Nb5± 0.48/19]



15...gxf3
[15...Ne8!?]
16.gxf3 Nh7 17.f4 -0.51/23
[17.Nb5!= -0.01/20]
17...Bg4 -0.17/22
[17...Nxg5∓ -0.51/23 18.hxg5 *(18.fxg5 exd4 19.Nb5 Bg4∓)* 18...Bg4]
18.Be2!= Bxe2 19.Qxe2 exd4 -0.33/21
[19...Nxg5= 0.01/21 might be stronger. 20.fxg5 exd4]
20.Kg2∓
[20.Qxh5 dxc3+ 21.Kg2 Nxg5 22.Qxg5+ Qxg5 23.fxg5 Bc5∓]
20...dxc3 Hoping for ...Nxg5. The position is equal. **21.Nxh7**
[But not 21.Qxh5 Nxg5 22.Qxg5+ Qxg5 23.hxg5 cxb2∓]
21...cxb2 22.Rad1 The board is on fire.
22...Kxh7 23.Qxh5+ Kg7

(Diagram)

Strongly threatening ...Rh8. **24.Qg4+!**
[Much worse is 24.Rd5 f6 25.e5 fxe5 26.fxe5 Qf7 27.Qg5+ Qg6 28.exd6 cxd6∓]
24...Kh8 ...f5! is the strong threat.



25.Qh5+ Kg7 And now ...Rh8 would win. **26.Qg4+!**
[Reject 26.Rd5 f6 27.e5 fxe5 28.fxe5 Qf7 29.Qg5+ Qg6 30.exd6 cxd6∓]
26...Kh8 White must now prevent ...f5!
27.Qh5+ Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

E04
□ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2741**
■ **Erigaisi Arjun** **2801**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (3.3) 20.01.25
[Tactical Analysis 6.4]

E04: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.dxc5 Qxd1 8.Rxd1 Bxc5 9.Nbd2 c3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Ne1 0.06/19
[11.Nb3± 0.45/20 Be7 12.Ne1]
11...Bd7N 0.46/21
[11...Rd8= 0.06/19]
[11...Be7 12.Nd3 *(12.Nc4 Rd8 13.Ba3 Bxa3 14.Nxa3 Bd7 15.Rab1 Rab8 16.Nb5 Kf8 17.Nd3 Be8*

18.Nc5 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Na5 20.a4 Bxb5 21.axb5 Ke8 22.Rb1 b6 23.Nb3 Nxb3 24.Rxb3 Rc8 25.Ra3 Rc7 26.Bc6+ Ke7 ½-½ (52) Bluebaum,M (2642)-Wojtaszek,R (2736) Dortmund 45th 2017 (6)*)* 12...Nd5 *(12...Bd7 13.Nb3 b6 14.c4 Rfd8 15.Bb2 Rac8 16.Rac1 Nb4 17.Nxb4 Bxb4 18.Bb7 Rb8 19.Bf3 Be8 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.c5 Rc8 22.Bb7 Rc7 23.c6 Ne4 24.Rc4 Nd6 25.Rxb4 Bxc6 26.Bxc6 Rxc6 27.Rd4* 1-0 (38) Persse,D (2737)-Lihotsky,L (2744) (ol) 73/59 Elista 1998 (10) *)* 13.Bb2 Bd7 *(13...Nb6 14.Rab1 Na5 15.Ba1 Rd8 16.c4 Naxc4 17.Nxc4 Nxc4 18.Bxb7 Bxb7 19.Rxb7 Bf6 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Rc1 Nd6 22.Re7 Nb5 23.a4 Kf8 24.Rb7 Nd6 25.Rbc7 Ne8 26.R7c5 Rab8 27.R1c4 f5 28.Kg2* 1-0 (52) Gelfand,B (2758)-Ponomariov,R (2739) FIDE World Cup 2009 (7.6)*)* 14.Nb3 Rfd8 15.Ndc5 Bxc5 16.Nxc5 Na5 17.Bxd5 exd5 18.Rxd5 Bc6 19.Rd4 Summary-N,N lichess.org 2019]

12.Rb1± Na5 0.70/21

[12...Nd8= 0.27/20 feels stronger.]

13.Nb3 Nxb3 14.axb3 Bc6! 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Nd3 Be7 17.Be3 Rfc8 18.Bc5 Kf8 19.Ra1 Black is weak on the dark squares **19...Rc7** 1.34/21

[⌓19...a5 0.87/22]

20.Kf1 0.81/22

[⌓20.Ra6 1.34/21]

20...Nd7 21.Bxe7+ Kxe7 22.Ra3 c5 23.c4 Rb7 24.Rda1 a5 25.Ke1 0.58/22

[White should try 25.Rxa5± 1.11/21 Rxa5 26.Rxa5]

25...Kd6 26.Nc1

[26.Rxa5 Rxa5 27.Rxa5 Rxb3±]

26...Rba7 27.Na2 Kc6 28.Nc3 Nb6 29.f4 0.53/22

[29.f3± 1.00/19]

29...Nc8 30.Nb5 Ra6 31.Rd1 Nb6 32.Ra2 0.19/23

[32.g4± 0.79/24]

32...Rf8 1.17/21

[32...a4= 0.19/23 remains equal. 33.Rda1 g6]

33.Rd6+± Kb7 34.Nc3 White is much more active. The black rooks are passive. **34...Raa8 35.Rad2 Rfc8 36.Ra2** -0.01/20

[36.Rd1± 1.01/21]

36...Rf8!= 37.Rd1↑ Keeping Black busy. White now steadily converts the win. **37...Ra7 38.Rda1 Rfa8** 2.41/22

[38...a4± 1.26/25 39.Ra3 *(39.Nxa4 Nxa4 40.Rxa4 Rxa4±)* 39...Rb8]

39.Nb5+- Ra6 40.Nd6+ Kc7 41.Nxf7 Nd7 42.Ng5 Nf6 43.Nf3 Ne4 44.Nd2 Nf6 45.Kf2 Ng4+ 46.Kg2 Ne4 is the strong threat. **46...e5** 3.25/21

[⌓46...Nf6 2.23/21 47.e4 e5]

47.Ne4 exf4 48.gxf4 Re8 3.50/22

[⌓48...Kc6 2.41/22 49.Rd2 Rb6]

49.Nxc5 Rc6 50.Nd3 Rg6 51.h3 1.67/21

[51.Rxa5 Rxe2+ 52.Kf1 Rd2 53.Ra7+ Kc8 54.Ra8+ Kc7 55.R8a7+ *(55.R1a7+ Kc6=)* 55...Kc8±]

[⌓51.f5 3.33/21 Ne3+ 52.Kh1]

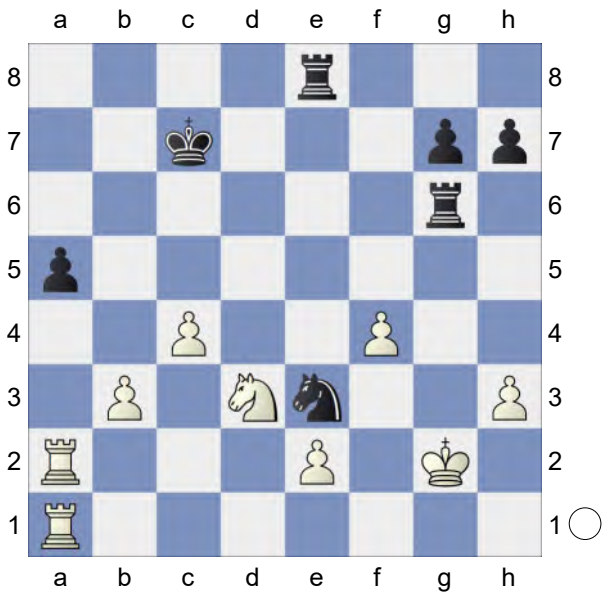
51...Ne3+? 5.06/22

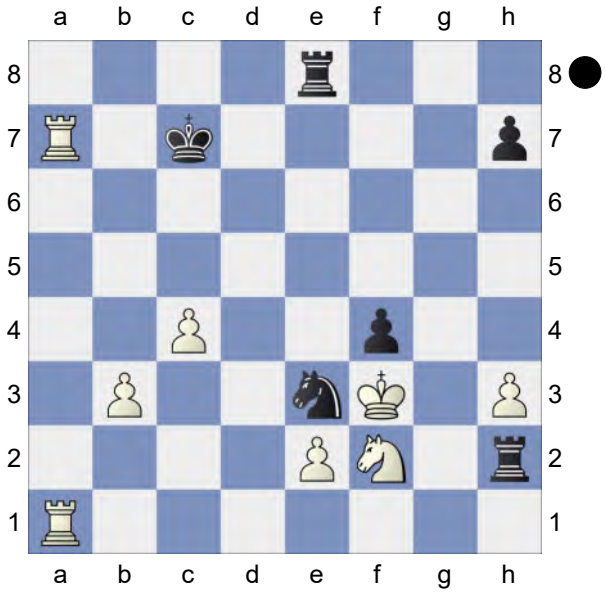
[51...Ne5+ 1.67/21 is more resistant. 52.Kf2 Nxd3+ 53.exd3 Rf6 54.Rxa5 Rxf4+ 55.Kg1 *(55.Kg3 Rd4±)* 55...Re3 56.Rc5+ Kb7]

(Diagram)

52.Kf2 Rg2+ 53.Kf3 Rh2 54.Nf2 g5 55.Rxa5 gxf4 56.Ra7+

(Diagram)





Skewer **56...Kd6 57.Ne4+ Ke6 58.R1a6+ Ke5 59.Ra5+ Kd4 60.Rd7+**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.34
1-0

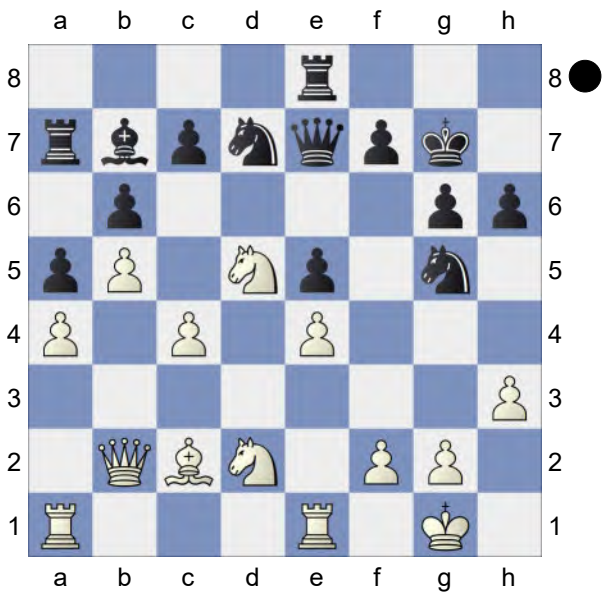
D38
□ **Gukesh D** **2777**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (3.4) 20.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4) **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Bf5 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.e3 g5 10.Bg3 0-0 11.Bb5 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Ne7 13.Nd2 Ng6N**
[13...Ne4 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.0-0 c6 16.Be2 Nf5 17.c4 dxc4 18.Qxc4 Qd5 19.Qxd5 Bxd5 20.Rab1 b6 21.Rb2 Rae8 22.Rc1 Nxg3 23.hxg3 f5 24.Bc4 f4 25.Bxd5+ cxd5 26.gxf4 gxf4 27.exf4 Rxf4 28.Rd2 Louvrier Saint Mary,J (2664)-Mladenov,P (2626) Berlin 2016 Inf 69 [Egil Fagerbekk] 1-0 (42) Ree4 29.Rcd1 Kg7 30.f3 Re3 31.Kf2 Ra3 32.Kg3 Re4 33.Rc1 Kf7 34.Rc8 Re1 35.Kf4 Ra1 36.Rc7+ Ke8 37.Re2+ Kd8 38.Ree7 R3xa2 39.Red7+ Ke8 40.Rh7 Kd8 41.Rcd7+ Kc8 42.Rdf7 1-0 (42) Fressinet,L (2664) -Bluebaum,M (2626) Baku 2016 CBM 175 [Sumets, Andrey]]
14.Qd1 -0.08/19
[⌓14.h3 0.30/19]
14...h5 0.24/22
[⌓14...Rc8 -0.08/19]
15.h3= c6 16.Be2 h4 17.Bh2 b5 18.a4 a6! 19.0-0 Re8 20.Re1 Qe7 21.Bf3 Be4 22.Be2 0.01/19
[22.Bxe4± 0.47/22 Nxe4 23.Nxe4 Qxe4 24.Qh5]
22...Bf5 23.Bf3 -0.01/20
[23.Ra2± 0.34/22]
23...Be4 24.Be2 -0.01/21
[24.Bxe4± 0.38/22 Nxe4 25.Nxe4

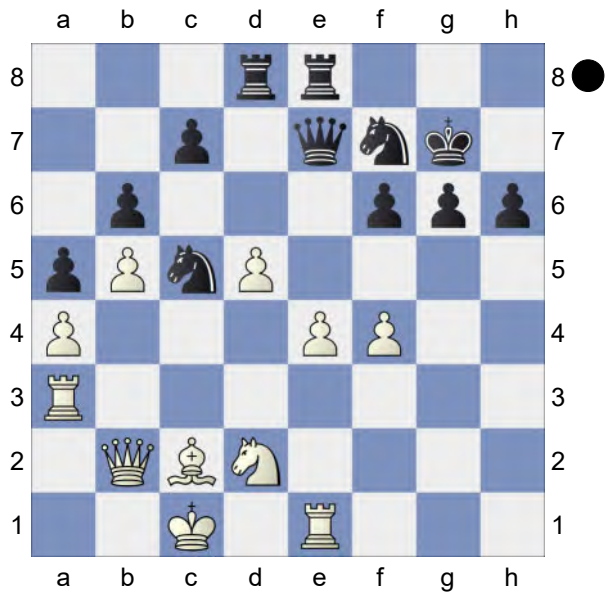
Qxe4 26.Bd6]
24...Bf5 Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
½-½

C78
□ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2768**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (3.5) 20.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and Möller Defences **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 Bc5 6.c3 d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 Ba7 9.Re1 Ne7**
[9...Nh5 10.d4 Qf6 11.Be3 Nf4 12.Bxf4 Qxf4 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Nbd2 Rb8 15.b3 f6 16.Qe2 Kh8 17.Nc4 d5 18.Na5 Bd7 19.exd5 cxd5 20.dxe5 Bxh3 21.Nc6 fxe5 22.Nxa7 Bxg2 23.Nh2 Bh3 24.Qe3 Quizon,D (2457)-Sychev,K (2531) Abu Dhabi 2024 1-0 (41)]
10.d4 The position is equal. **10...Ng6 11.Bc2 Bd7N**
[11...Re8 12.Nbd2 h6 *(12...b5 13.Nf1 Bb7 14.Ng3 d5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Qxd8 Raxd8 19.Bf4* 24. Alternative: Anderssen Va,5-6...d6 7.O-O O-O 8.h3 Ba7 9.R*)* 13.a4 Bd7 14.a5 Bc6 15.Ra3 Qc8 16.b4 24. Alternative: Anderssen Va,5-6...d6 7. O-O O-O 8.h3 Ba7 9.R]
12.Be3 Re8 13.Nbd2 a5 14.a4 Bc6 15.Qb1 Qe7 16.dxe5 dxe5 17.Bxa7 Rxa7 18.Bd3 -0.33/18
[18.Nc4= -0.01/20]
18...Nf8 0.05/21
[18...Raa8∓ -0.33/18]
19.Nc4 N8d7 20.Qc2 g6 21.b3 b6 22.Rad1
[22.Qc1 looks sharper. Kg7 23.Qg5 h6 24.Qe3]
22...Raa8 23.Qb2
[23.Qc1 keeps more tension. Kg7 24.Bc2 Qc5 25.Bd3]
23...Nh5 24.Ne3 Rad8 25.Bc2 Nhf6 26.Nc4 Kg7 27.b4 Ra8 28.Ra1 h6 29.Re3 Nh7 30.Nfd2 Ra7 31.Ree1 Ng5 32.Ne3 Nf6 33.b5 Bb7
[33...Bxe4? 34.h4 Bxc2 35.hxg5 hxg5 36.Qxc2+-]
[Don't play 33...Nfxe4 34.Bxe4 Bxe4 35.h4±]
34.c4 Nd7
[34...Bxe4? 35.Nxe4 Nfxe4 36.Bxe4+-]
35.Nd5 -0.71/24
[35.Ra3= 0.11/20]



35...Nxh3+! 36.Kf1 Bxd5 37.cxd5 Ng5 38.Ra3 f6 39.Ke2 -0.88/21
[39.Rc3∓ -0.51/21]
39...Nc5 40.Kd1 -1.03/21
[⌓40.Rg3 -0.72/20]
40...Raa8 41.Kc1 Rad8 42.g3 Nf7 &Nero is more active. Pair of Knights!
43.f4 exf4 44.gxf4
(Diagram)



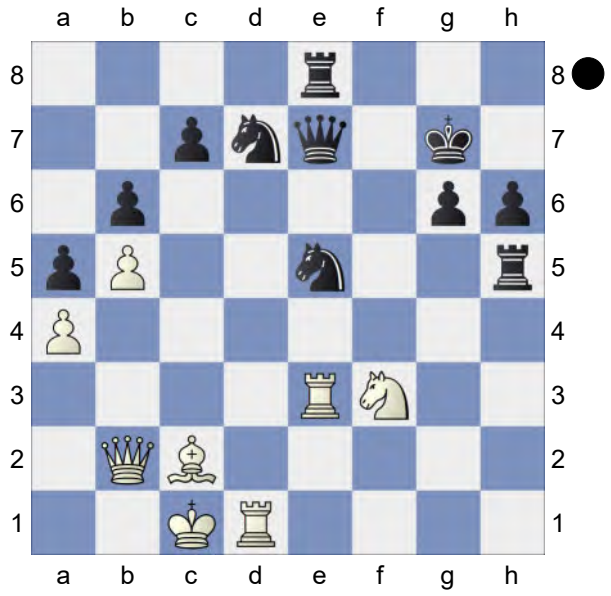
Rxd5! Hoping for ...Red8. **45.Nf3 Rh5 46.e5** Against Nd6 **46...fxe5** Strongly threatening ...Kh7. **47.Rae3 Nd7** -0.71/23

[⌓47...Kh7 -1.26/23 ...e4 is the strong threat. 48.fxe5 Ne6]

48.fxe5∓ Nfxe5 White must now prevent ...Qb4!

[Much weaker is 48...Ndxe5?! 49.Bb3=]

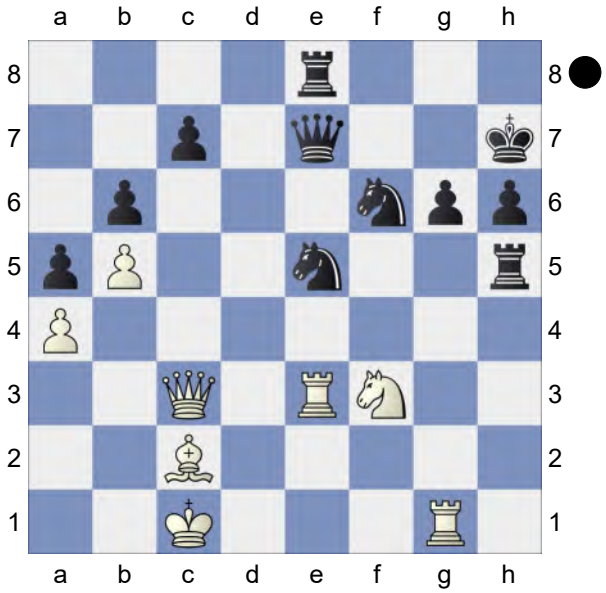
49.Rd1 Nf6 50.Rde1! Nfd7 Threatens to win with ...Qb4! **51.Rd1**



Kh7! And now ...Rf8 would win. **52.Qc3** -1.30/23

[52.Kb1!= -0.16/25 was the only way to keep the balance.]

52...Nf6 53.Rg1



Nd5!

[53...Kh8? 54.Rge1 Qb4 55.Qxb4 axb4 56.Nxe5+-]

54.Bxg6+ Kh8 55.Qd4 Nxe3 56.Bxh5 Qa3+ 57.Kd2? -9.52/24

[57.Kb1 -2.41/26 Qb3+ 58.Qb2 Qxb2+ 59.Kxb2 Nd3+ 60.Kc3]

57...Nf5 Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

0-1

C55

□ **Giri,Anish** **2731**

■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2717**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (3.6) 20.01.25

[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.0-0 d6 6.a4 0-0 7.Re1 h6 8.a5 Rb8N**

[8...a6 9.c3 Nh7 *(9...Be6 10.Nbd2 Bxc4 11.Nxc4 Re8 12.Qb3 Rb8*

13.Ne3 Bf8 14.c4 Nd7 15.Nd5 Nc5 16.Qc3 Ne6 17.Be3 g6 18.b4 Bg7 19.b5 Ncd4 20.Bxd4 exd4 21.Qd2 c6 22.Nb6 Nc5 23.Reb1 Qe7 24.g3 Vuckovic,Z (2334)-Sargissian,G (2628) Skopje 2024 0-1 (62)*)* 10.d4 *(10.Be3 Ng5 11.Nbd2 Nxf3+ 12.Nxf3 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.b4 Bf6 15.Qb3 Qd7 16.c4 Ne7 17.b5 g5 18.Rab1 Bg7 19.Nd2 Ng6 20.c5 d5 21.bxa6 bxa6 22.exd5 exd5 23.Ne4 Kh8 24.c6 Qxc6* Tkachiev,V (2632) -Fressinet,L (2619) Cap d'Agde 2002 CBM 092 [Lukacs,Peter] ½-½ (46)*; 10.Qb3 Qe8 11.d4 Ng5 12.Nbd2* C 55/07 *)* 10...Ng5 11.d5 Nb8 12.Nbd2 Kh8 13.Bd3 f5 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Bxf5 Rxf5 16.c4 Nd7 17.Ra3 Nxf3+ 18.Nxf3 Qf8 19.Be3 c5 20.Nd2 Bh4 21.g3 Be7 22.Qg4 Qf7 23.Rb3 Chapter-Game Game 1 (53)]

9.h3 Re8 10.Nc3 White is slightly better. **10...a6 11.Bd2 Bf8 12.Qb1 Be6 13.Bxe6 Rxe6 14.Nd5 Ne7 15.Nxf6+ Rxf6 16.Qd1 Ng6 17.d4 exd4 18.Nxd4 c5 19.Nf5 d5 20.Qg4 Qc8 21.Ne3 Qxg4 22.Nxg4 Rd6 23.exd5! Rxd5 24.Bc3 Rbd8 25.Ne3 R5d7 26.Nc4 f6 27.g3 Ne7 28.Nb6 Rd6 29.Nc4 R6d7 30.Nb6 Rd6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) / Black=0.03 (flawless)

½-½

E52

□ **Mendonca,Leon Luke 2639**

■ **Harikrishna,Pentala 2695**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (3.7) 20.01.25

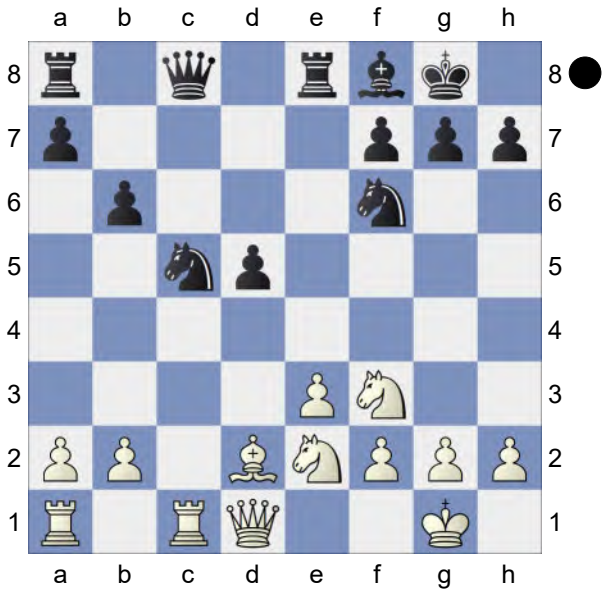
[Kitty Kat]

E52: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: 4...0-0 5 Nf3 d5 6 Bd3 b6 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 b6 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 d5 7.0-0 Ba6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bxa6 Nxa6** White has an edge. **10.Qa4 Qc8 11.Bd2 Re8 12.Rfc1 Bf8 13.Ne2 c5 14.dxc5 Nxc5**

[14...bxc5 15.Bc3 Kulygina,U (2642) - Skalusevic,L (2671) Denmark 2014 Telechess CBM 89 [Rause, Harding]]

15.Qd1N

[15.Qc2 Qb7 16.Bc3 Nfe4 17.b4 Ne6 18.Qb3 Rac8 19.Bb2 b5 20.Rxc8 Rxc8 21.Rd1 Rc4 #7 15) Nimzo Indian with 4.e3,5-9. Bxa6 with 10.Qa4]

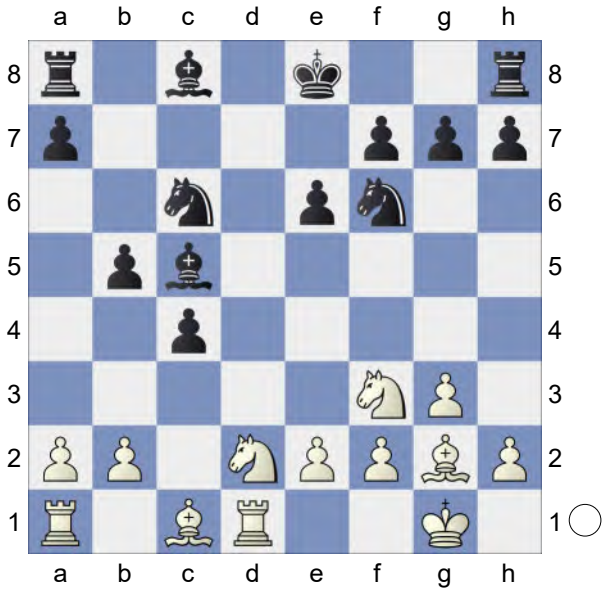


Threatens to win with b4. **15...Qb7 16.Bc3 Nce4 17.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.Rc2 Rac8 19.Rac1 Rc5 20.Nfd4 Rec8 21.Nc3 Ne4** The position is equal. **22.Nb3** Pair of Knights! **22...R5c7**

23.Nxe4 dxe4 24.Rd2 g6 25.g3 Be7 26.Rxc7 Rxc7 27.Nd4 Bb4 28.Rc2 Rd7 29.Qe2 Bc5 30.Nb3 Be7 31.Qc4 Kg7 32.Nd4
[32.Kg2 looks sharper. f5 33.Nd4 Bf6 34.Rd2]
32...Bc5 33.Nb3 Be7 34.Nd4 Bc5 35.Nb5 a5 36.Nc3 f5 37.Kg2 Be7 38.Ne2 Qd5 39.Qc8 Bc5 40.Nf4 Qd1 41.Ne6+ Kh6 42.Rxc5 Dancing on a razor blade. **42...Qf3+ 43.Kh3 Qg4+ 44.Kg2 Qf3+** Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

E04
□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2695**
■ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (4.1) 21.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

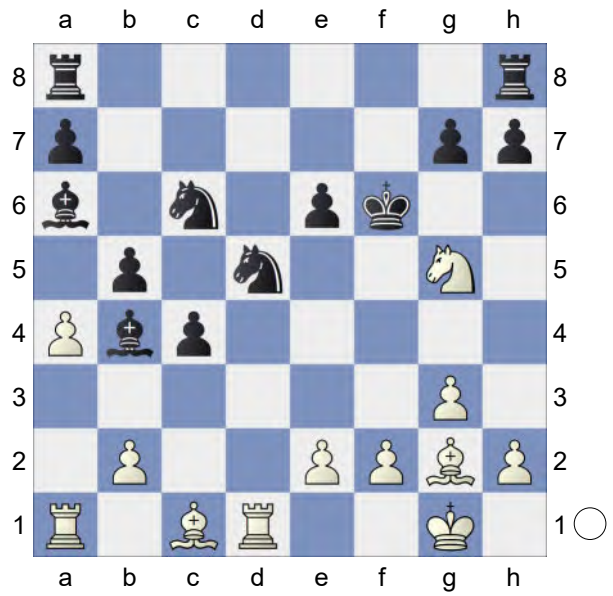
E04: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3 **1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.d4 Nf6 5.0-0 e6 6.c4 dxc4 7.dxc5 Qxd1 8.Rxd1 Bxc5 9.Nbd2 b5N** 0.74/22
[9...c3± 0.32/21 10.bxc3 0-0]
[9...Ng4 10.Ne4
A) 10...Be7 11.Nd6+ *(11.h3 Nge5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Be3* Kiseljova, M-Bernard,J 200 Traps In The Opening [Stanley,Charles Henry] *)* 11...Bxd6 12.Rxd6 Ke7 13.Rd1 Rd8 14.Rxd8 Kxd8 15.Bd2 e5 16.Rc1 e4 17.Ng5 e3 18.fxe3 Nge5 19.Nf3 f6 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.Ba5+ Ke7 22.Bc7 Nc6 23.Rxc4 Be6 24.Ra4 Rc8 25.Bxc6 Chandreyee,H (2580)-Sukhareva,O (2585) Rostov 1989 200 Traps In The Opening [ILN cv (10 Nov 1894) p598; Liv club report] ½-½ (53);
B) 10...Bb6 11.h3 Nge5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Bf4 Ng6 14.Nd6+ Ke7 15.Nxc8+ Raxc8 16.Bd6+ Kf6 17.Bxb7 4.h3 Bg7 5.Nf3 de4 6.Ne (2618)-2.d4 cd4 3.Nf3_25209 (2311) Polish League 2008 Telechess CBM 89 [Oim, Harding]]
[9...Na5 10.Ne5 Rb8 11.Ndxc4 Nxc4 12.Nxc4 0-0 13.Bf4 Ra8 14.Nd6 Bxd6 15.Bxd6 Rd8 16.Be7 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Nd5 18.e4 Bd7 19.exd5 exd5 20.Bxd5 Re8 21.Bb4 Bc8 22.Re1 Rxe1+ 23.Bxe1 b6 24.Bb4 Trimpe,F (1529)-Raulf,C (1657) Verden 2004 EXT 2005 [ChessBase II] 1-0 (37)]



10.a4 0.40/21
[10.Ne5!± 0.74/22 Nxe5 11.Bxa8]
10...Ba6± 11.Ng5 Nd5 White is slightly better. **12.Nde4! Bb4 13.Nxf7** -0.05/24 **Kxf7= 14.Ng5+ Kf6**

(Diagram)

Hoping for ...Rad8. **15.Nxe6 Nce7! 16.axb5 Bb7 17.Nd4 Kf7 18.Ra4**



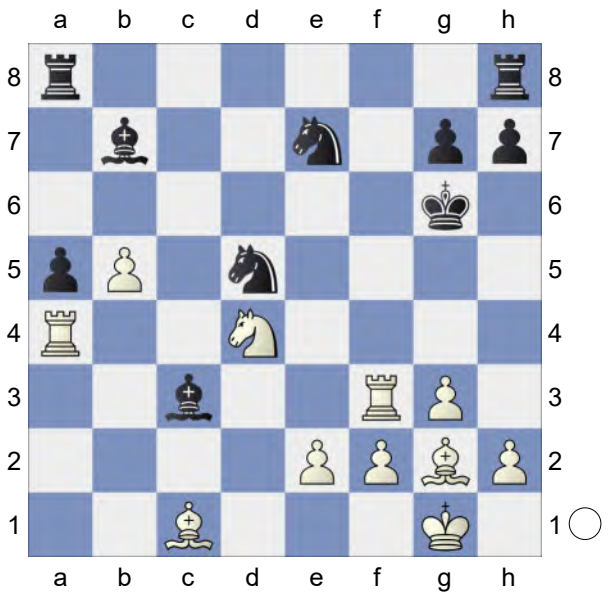
aiming for e4. **18...c3 19.Rd3** -0.56/23
[19.Rxb4= -0.01/22 Nxb4 20.Bxb7]
19...a5 -0.01/23
[19...cxb2!∓ -0.56/23 20.Bxb2 a5]
20.bxc3! Bxc3 1.01/23
[Don't do 20...Nxc3 21.Bxb7! Rad8 22.Rf3+ Kg6 23.Rxc3! Bxc3 24.Be3±]
[20...Rac8= 0.01/24 keeps the balance.]
21.Rf3+ 0.08/24
[White should play 21.Nc6!± 1.01/23]
21...Kg6? 3.52/24
[21...Ke8= 0.08/24 and Black is okay.]

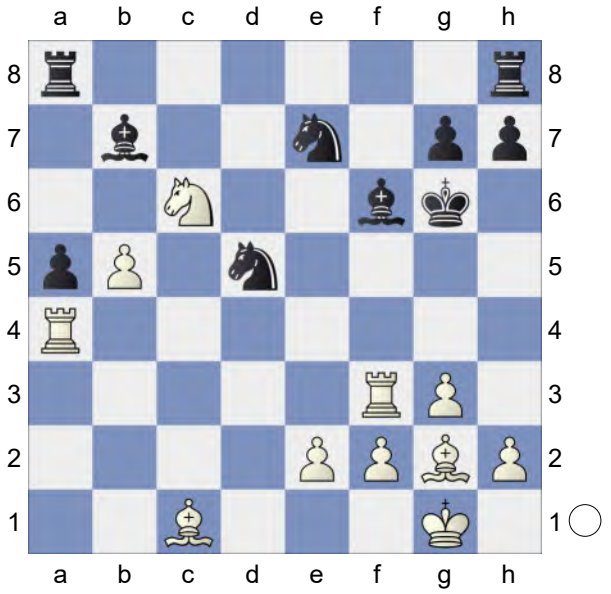
(Diagram)

22.Nc6!+- Rg4+ would kill now. **22...Bf6**
[22...Nxc6 gets mated. 23.Rg4+ Kh5 24.Rf5+ g5 25.Rfxg5+ Kh6 26.Rh4#]

(Diagram)

23.Ne5+! Weighted Error Value:





White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.65
1-0

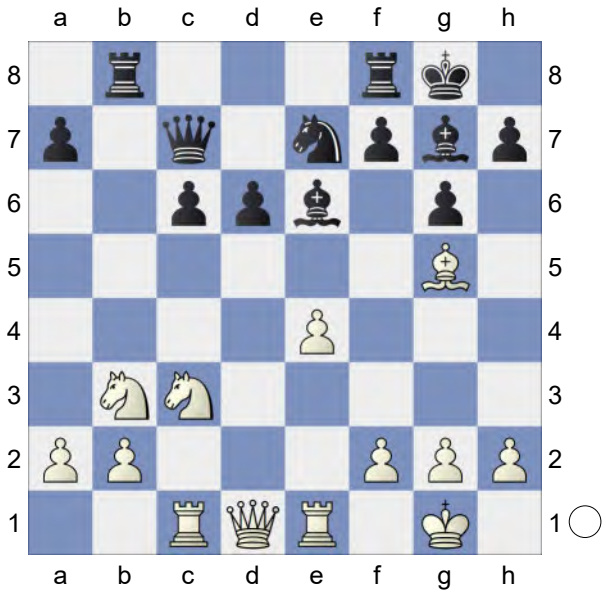
B31
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (4.2) 21.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

B31: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5 g6 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 e5 6.Bxc6 bxc6 7.c3 Ne7 8.d4 cxd4**

9.cxd4 exd4 10.Nxd4 0-0 11.Nc3 Rb8 12.Nb3 Qc7N Against Qd6
[12...d5
A) 13.Bg5 d4 *(13...f6 14.Be3 dxe4 15.Nxe4 f5 16.Nc3 Qc7 17.Bc5 Rd8 18.Rxe7 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1* 1-0 (19) Cardenas, R-Pedersen_HB/Hansen_Car. Linares 2000 200 Traps In The Opening [Pilnik,H/ Primel,D]*)* 14.Na4 *(14.Ne2 Rb5 15.Qd2 c5 16.Rac1 f6 17.Bh6 Bxh6 18.Qxh6 d3* ½-½ (18) Fudala,M-Klimek,J Valasska Bystrice 2023*)* 14...h6 15.Bh4 Be6 16.Nac5 Bxb3 17.axb3 Rb5 18.Nd3 a5 19.Qc2 Re8 20.Bxe7 Rxe7 21.b4 axb4 22.Qxc6 1-0 (22) Maghsoodloo (2688)-Zvjaginsev (2642) St Petersburg 2018 [Lawrence];
B) 13.Bf4;
C) 13.Be3 dxe4 14.Bc5 Rb7 15.Nxe4 Bxb2 16.Nd4 Bxd4 17.Bxd4 Nd5 18.Rc1 f5 19.Nd2 Nf4 20.Nf3 Ne6 21.Rxc6 Nxd4 ½-½ (21) Mechitov, V (2530)-Bolz,B (2555) corr CCCA 1992 Telechess CBM 89 [Heemsoth, FS 10/59 p217]]
13.Bg5 d6 14.Rc1 -0.02/20
[14.Qd2!± 0.51/21]
14...Be6=

(Diagram)

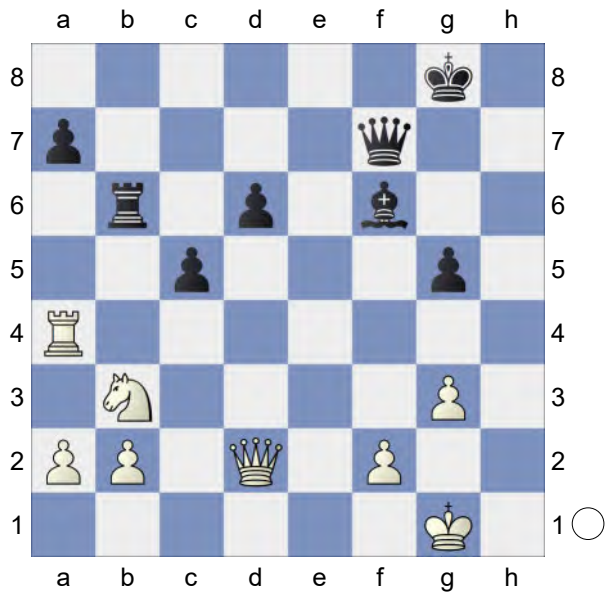
15.Nd5! Nxd5 16.exd5 Rb5!⇄ Black puts up resistance **17.dxe6** aiming for Bf4.
[17.Rxc6 Qd7 18.h4 Rxd5∓]
17...Rxg5 18.Qd2 -0.35/23
[18.e7 Re8 19.Qd2 Re5 20.Rxe5 Bxe5∓]
[18.Nd4= 0.02/21 is superior.]



18...Rf5∓ 19.exf7+! Qxf7 20.Re2 c5 21.g3
[Much worse is 21.Qxd6 c4 22.Nd2 Rxf2∓]
21...Rd5
[21...a5 seems wilder. 22.Nxa5 Bd4 23.Rf1 Qxa2 24.b4 Qxd2 25.Rxd2 Bc3]
22.Qc2 Re5 23.Rxe5 Bxe5 24.Re1 Rb8 25.Qd2 Rb6 26.h4 Bf6 27.Rd1 Kg7 28.Re1 h6 29.Re4 g5 0.01/23
[29...h5∓ -0.49/20]
30.hxg5 The position is equal. **30...hxg5 31.Ra4 Kg8**

(Diagram)

...c4 is the strong threat. **32.Qc2** Against c4 **32...Rb8 33.Qf5 Be7 34.Qc2**
[Much weaker is 34.Qxf7+ Kxf7 35.Rxa7 Ke6∓]
34...Bf6 Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½



E06

□ **Sarana,Alexey** **2677**
■ **Gukesh D** **2777**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (4.3) 21.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

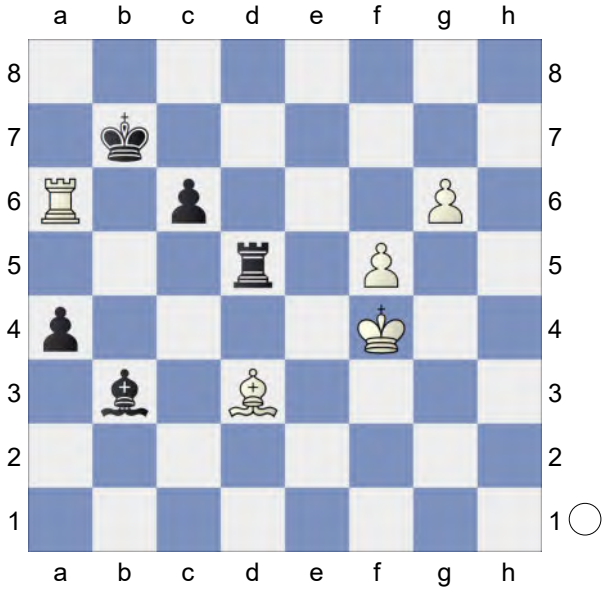
E06: Closed Catalan: Early deviations
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.Ne5 Nxe5 8.dxe5 Nd7 9.cxd5 Nxe5 10.dxe6N
[10.0-0 exd5 11.Nxd5 Bd6 12.Qc2 c6 13.Nc3 Qe7 14.Ne4 Bf5 15.Qb3 Be6 16.Qc3 Bc7 17.Bf4 Bd5 18.Rfd1 Bxe4 19.Bxe4 Ng6 20.Bxc7 Qxc7 21.Rd4 Rad8 22.Rad1 Rfe8 23.e3 a5 24.Kg2 Nf8 Visakh,N (2501)-Lu,M (2429) Schwaebisch Gmuend 2025 1-0 (45)]
10...Bxe6 11.Bxb7 Rb8 12.Bg2 Qxd1+ 13.Nxd1 Nc4 14.0-0 Bf6 15.Nc3 Rfd8 Prevents Nd5. **16.Ne4 Bxb2 17.Bxb2 Rxb2**
[Resist 17...Nxb2 18.Rfc1±]
18.Rfc1 f6 19.e3 h6 20.a4 a5 21.Rab1 Rb6 22.Nc5 Bf7 23.Rd1 Rdd6 24.h3 Kf8 25.Rdc1 Ke7 26.Ra1 Rb4 27.Rc2 -0.32/24
[27.Rc3= 0.01/23]
27...Rdb6 28.Rac1 Rb1 29.Bf1 -0.53/21
[29.Rc3= -0.20/22]
29...Ne5 -0.01/21
[29...Na3∓ -0.53/21 30.Rc3 Rxc1 31.Rxc1 Rb1 32.Rxb1 Nxb1]
30.f4= Nf3+ 31.Kf2 Rxc1 32.Rxc1 Nd2 33.Be2 c6 34.Rd1 Rb2 35.Ke1 Rc2 36.Rxd2 Rxc5 Endgame KRB-KRB **37.Rb2 Be6 38.Rb7+ Kf8 39.g4 f5** 0.49/22
[39...Rc1+= 0.06/22 40.Kd2 Ra1]
40.Kd2 Rd5+ 41.Kc3 Rc5+ 42.Kd2 0.01/21
[42.Kb2± 0.35/25]
42...g5 43.Rh7 gxf4 0.95/24
[43...Rd5+= 0.27/21 44.Kc3 Rc5+ 45.Kb2 Bc4]
44.exf4±
[Of course not 44.Rxh6?! fxe3+ 45.Kxe3 Re5+ 46.Kd3 Rd5+ 47.Ke3 Re5+ 48.Kd3 Rd5+ 49.Ke3 Re5+=]
44...fxg4 45.hxg4 Bb3 46.Rxh6 Bxa4 47.Rh8+ 0.77/21
[⌓47.Bf3 1.25/21]
47...Ke7 48.Rh7+ 0.28/23
[48.g5± 0.74/22]
48...Kd6!= 49.g5 0.17/22
[49.Rh6+± 0.51/20 Ke7 50.g5]
49...Bb3! 50.Bd3 a4 51.Ra7 Rd5 0.63/23
[51...Kd5= 0.16/24]
52.Kc3 0.17/24 &Bianco is more active.
[52.Ke3± 0.63/23]
52...Rc5+ 53.Kd2 Rd5 54.Ke3 Kc5 55.g6 1.09/22
[55.f5± 0.66/22]
55...Kb6 56.Ra6+ Kb7 aiming for ... Rxd3+! **57.f5 Re5+** 1.48/25
[57...Rxd3+? 58.Kxd3 Kxa6 59.f6+-]
[⌓57...Rd8 1.12/26 58.Ke4 Bd5+

59.Kf4 Bg8]

58.Kf4 1.15/23

[White should play 58.Kd4 1.48/25 Rxf5 59.Bxf5 Kxa6 60.Bd3+ Kb6 61.Bc4]

58...Rd5±



59.Ke3 0.01/20

[White should try 59.Ke4!± 1.24/23]

59...Rd8 1.04/22

[59...Rxd3+? 60.Kxd3 Kxa6 61.f6+-]

[59...Re5+!= 0.01/20 keeps the balance. 60.Kf4 Rd5]

60.f6 Rf8

[60...Rxd3+ 61.Kxd3 Kxa6 62.f7 Bd1 63.f8Q Kb6 64.Qd6 Bh5 65.Kd4]

61.g7 Rxf6

(Diagram)

62.Rxa4! Bg8 63.Rf4 0.01/23

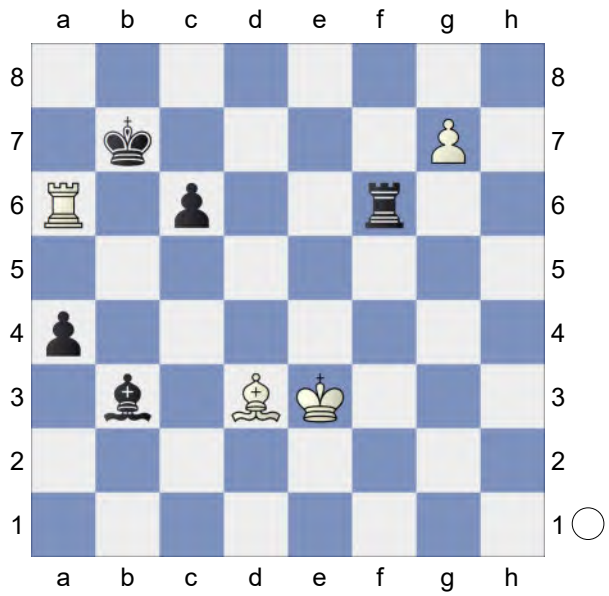
[63.Ra5± 0.48/22 might be stronger.]

63...Rxf4!= The position is equal.

64.Kxf4 KB-KB **64...c5** **65.Ke5** Hoping for Be4+. **65...Kc7** **66.Be4** Black must now prevent Bd5. **66...c4!**

67.Bd5 c3 Strongly threatening ...c2.

68.Bxg8 Threatening mate with Bb3.



68...c2 **69.Bb3** **c1Q** (→ ...Qc3+) **70.g8Q** Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)

½-½

E24

□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2768**

■ **Wei,Yi** **2751**

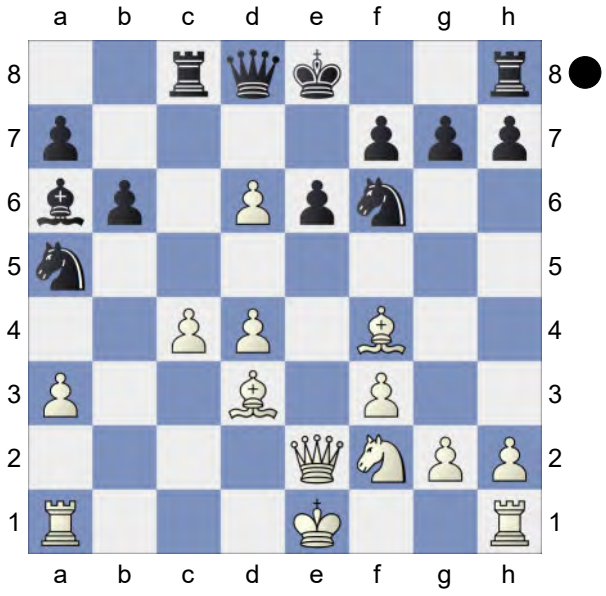
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (4.4) 21.01.25

[Kitty Kat]

E24: Nimzo-Indian: Sämisch: Unusual Black 5th moves and 5...c5 sidelines The defending Wijk Champion winner Jorden van Foreest played his usual (full of ideas) combative chess winning not fewer than five games (!) and sharing 4-7 place with Giri and Karjakin (taking into account free forfeit point Giri got vs Dubov). In the Dutch derby Jorden van Foreest slaughtered his compatriot. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 b6 6.f3 Nc6 7.e4 Na5 8.Bd3** -0.19/20

[8.Bg5 0.14/18 should be considered.]

8...Ba6!= 9.Qe2 c5
[9...d6 10.f4 Qd7 11.Nf3 Qa4 12.Nd2 e5 13.0-0 0-0 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.Rb1 c5 16.Rxf6 gxf6 17.Qf3 Qc6 18.d5 Qd6 19.Nf1 Kh8 20.Ne3 Bc8 21.Bd2 Rg8 22.Be1 Rg6 23.Bh4 Rh6 24.Qf2 Van Foreest,J (2702)-Giri, A (2772) Wijk aan Zee 2022 Chess Informant 151 [Sokolov,Ivan] 1-0 (42)]
10.Nh3 cxd4 11.cxd4 Rc8N
[11...Nb3 12.e5 Nxa1 13.exf6 Qxf6 14.Qb2 Qh4+ 15.Ke2 Chapter 2 - Black Plays b6 an,N [Abhijeet]]
12.e5 Ng8 13.Nf2 d5 Against Ne4
14.exd6 -0.51/22
[14.cxd5!= -0.01/22 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 *(15.Nxd3 Qxd5 16.Be3 Ne7∓)* 15...Qxd5 16.Ne4]
14...Nf6 0.99/22
[But not 14...Qxd6 15.Ne4 Qd7 16.c5 Bxd3 17.Qxd3±]
[14...Bxc4∓ -0.51/22 keeps the upper hand. 15.Bf4 Nf6]
15.Bf4? -0.77/22
[15.c5!± 0.99/22 is necessary to keep the advantage. Bxd3 16.Qxd3 *(16.Nxd3 Nb3=)*]



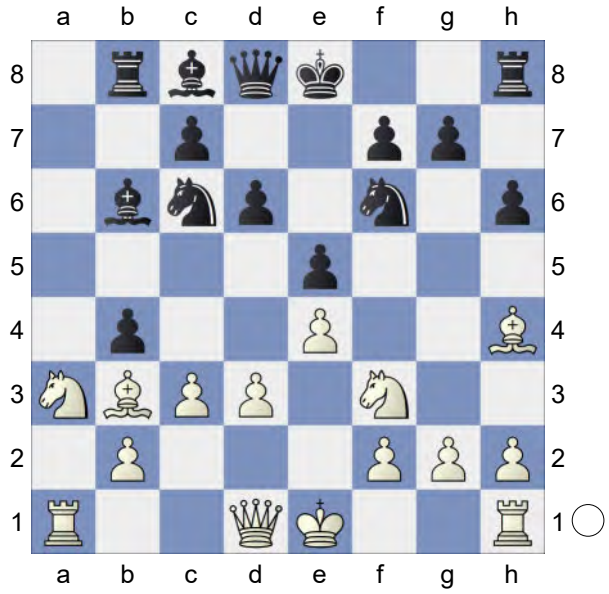
&Bianco is more active. **15...Bxc4∓ 16.0-0 0-0 17.Rac1 Nd5 18.Bg3 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 Nb7** Pair of Knights! **20.Ne4! f5** And now ...Rxc1 would win. **21.Nc3 Nxc3 22.Rxc3 Rxc3 23.Qxc3 f4 24.Bf2 Qxd6 25.Rc1 h6 26.h3** -0.68/22
[26.a4= -0.28/23]
26...Na5 -0.21/25
[26...Qe7∓ -0.68/22 deserves consideration.]
27.Kh2 Qd5 28.Qc7! Rf7 29.Qc8+ Rf8 30.Qc7 Rf7 31.Qc8+ Kh7 32.Re1 -0.51/25
[White should play 32.Rc7= -0.01/24 Rxc7 33.Qxc7]
32...Qd7∓ 33.Qxd7 Rxd7 34.Rxe6 Endgame KRB-KRN **34...Nc4 35.a4 Nb2 36.a5! Nd3 37.Bg1 bxa5** The position is equal. **38.Ra6 Rd5 39.h4 Nb4 40.Rxa7 Kg6 41.g4 fxg3+** Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
½-½

C77
□ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2741**
■ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (4.5) 21.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C77: Ruy Lopez: 3...a6 4 Ba4 Nf6, unusual lines **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 d6 9.c3 Bb6** The position is equal. **10.a4 Rb8 11.axb5 axb5 12.Na3 b4N**
[12...g5 13.Bg3 Nh5 14.Nxe5 Nxg3 15.Nxc6 Qf6 16.Qf3 Qxf3 17.gxf3 Nxh1 18.Nxb8 g4 19.Ke2 gxf3+ 20.Kxf3 Nxf2 21.d4 Nd3 22.Nxb5 Nxb2 23.Bd5 Be6 24.Rb1 Nd3

25.Na3 Ke7 26.Nc6+ Kd7 27.Nc4 Haldorsen,B (2454)-Melaa,S (2230) Oslo 2023 1-0 (31) Bxd5 28.exd5 Re8 29.Rd1 Ne1+ 30.Kf2 Nc2 31.Rc1 1-0 (31) Loehn,C (2454)-Movsesian,J (2230) Budapest 2023 Inf87 [John Watson]]

[12...Ne7 13.Nxb5 Ng6 14.Bg3 Bg4 15.Na3 0-0 16.Nc4 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Bxf2+ 18.Bxf2 Rxb3 19.0-0 Qd7 20.Ra7 Rfb8 21.h3 d5 22.exd5 Nxd5 23.d4 exd4 24.Bxd4 f6 25.Rd1 Qe6 26.Ne3 Ndf4 27.Rxc7 Bjerre,J (2524)-Esipenko,A (2642) New York 2024 0-1 (35)]



Strongly threatening ... g5. **13.Nc4 bxc3 14.bxc3 0-0 15.0-0 Kh8 16.Ba4 Bd7 17.Rb1 g5 18.Bg3 Ba7 19.Ra1** 0.44/22

[Better is 19.Rxb8± 0.91/21 Bxb8 20.Qa1]

19...Bb6 0.84/19

[19...Ra8!± 0.44/22]

20.Re1± White leaves nothing to chance now. **20...Ne7 21.d4↑** White is in control. **21...Bxa4 22.Rxa4 exd4 23.cxd4 Ng6 24.e5** &Bianco is more active. **24...Nh5** 1.64/22

[24...Nd5± 1.27/22]

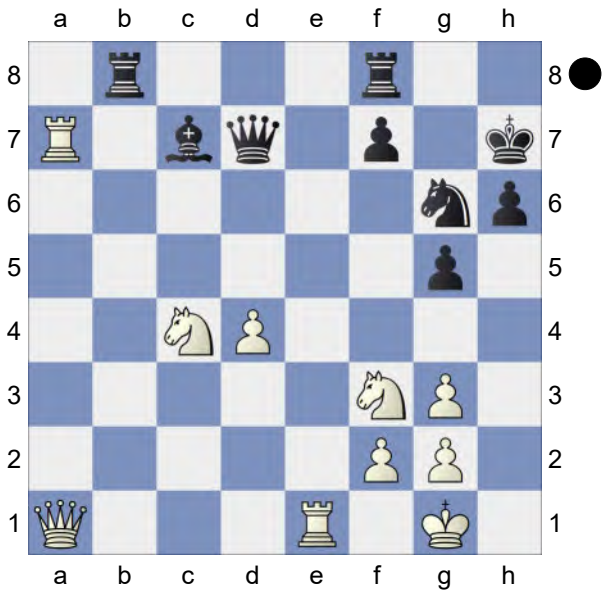
25.exd6+- aiming for Nfe5. **25...Nxg3 26.dxc7**

[Don't take 26.fxg3?! cxd6 27.h3 *(27.Nxb6 Rxb6 28.d5 Kg8±)* 27...Kg7±]

26...Qxc7 27.hxg3

[Don't do 27.fxg3 Rfd8±]

27...Rbe8 28.Ne3 Qd7 29.Qa1 Kh7 30.Ra6 Rb8 31.Nc4 Bc7 32.Ra7



Nce5 is the strong threat. **32...Qc6 33.Rc1 Ra8 34.d5 Rxa7 35.Qxa7**

[35.dxc6?! Rxa1 36.Rxa1 Rc8+-]

35...Ra8 36.Qd4

[Don't play 36.dxc6?! Rxa7 37.Nd4 Ra6+-]

36...Qd7 37.d6 Black must now prevent Qd5. **37...Bd8 38.Nce5** Pair of Knights! **38...Qe6 39.Nxg6 fxg6 40.Re1 Qf7** 5.75/25

[40...Qg8 3.66/25 was worth a try. 41.d7 Qg7]

41.Qe4 Ra7 42.Ne5 Qe6 43.Nc6 Qxe4 44.Rxe4 Rd7 45.Re6 Against Bf6 **45...h5 46.Kh2** Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /

Black=0.26 (precise)
1-0

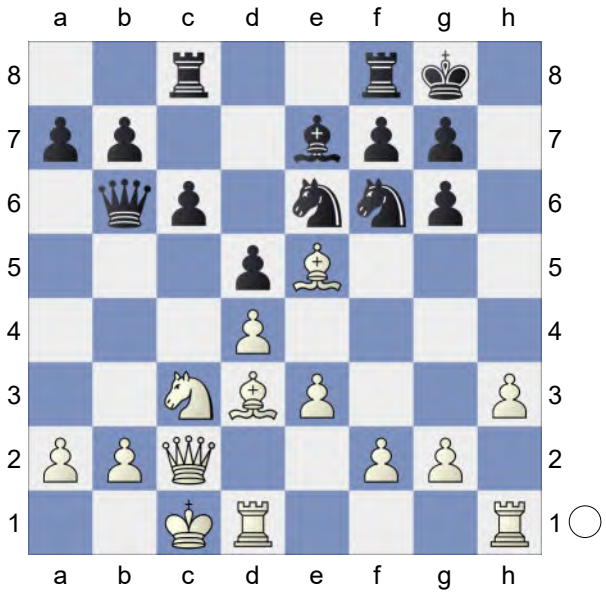
D35

□ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (4.6) 21.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

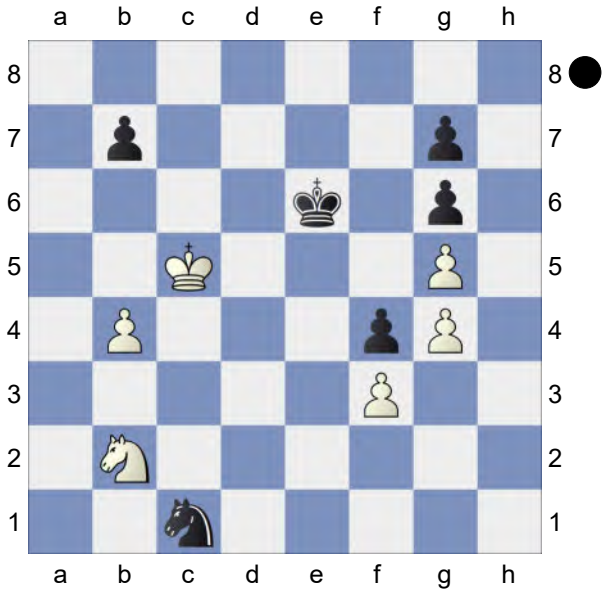
D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Nf3 c6 8.Nh4 Bg6 9.h3 Nbd7 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Bd3 Nf8 12.Qb3N**
[12.Qc2 Ne6 13.Be5 Qa5 14.0-0 Nd7 15.Bg3 f5 16.a3 Qd8 17.b4 Bh4 18.Bh2 Rc8 19.b5 Nf6 20.bxc6 bxc6 21.Ba6 Rc7 22.Bxc7 Qxc7 23.Rfc1 0-0 24.Nxd5 Nxd5 25.Qxc6 Qxc6 26.Rxc6 Kf7 Sikorova,J (2736) - Schmucker,R (2608) Baku 2023 Steinitz/Chigorin [John Watson] 1-0 (33) 27.Bc4 Rd8 28.Rb1 Rd7 29.Rb5 Ndc7 30.Rb7 Ke7 31.d5 Nd8 32.d6+ Kf6 33.dxc7+ 1-0 (33) Gukesh,D (2736)-Pranav,V (2608) Chess.com INT 2023]
12...Qb6 13.Qc2 Ne6 14.Be5 0-0 15.0-0-0 Rac8 0.77/23
[15...Nd7= 0.07/20 remains equal.]

(Diagram)

16.Kb1 0.19/21
[16.h4!± 0.77/23]
16...Rfd8= The position is equal. **17.Be2 Nd7 18.Bg3 Nf6 19.Be5 Nd7! 20.Bg3 Nf6 21.Bg4** White wants to play Bxe6. **21...c5 22.dxc5 Rxc5 23.Qb3 Qxb3 24.axb3 Nxg4 25.hxg4 d4 26.exd4**



Nxd4 27.Rhe1 Ne6 28.f3 a6 29.Rxd8+
[29.Rh1 keeps more tension. f5 30.b4 Rc4 31.Nd5]
29...Bxd8 30.Rd1 Bc7 31.Bxc7 Rxc7 Endgame KRN-KRN **32.Nd5 Rc5 33.b4 Rc4 34.b3 Rd4 35.Rxd4 Nxd4** KN-KN **36.Kb2 Kf8 37.Kc3 Ne6 38.b5 axb5 39.Kb4 Nd4 40.Nc3 Ke7 41.Nxb5 Ne6 42.Ka5 Nf4 43.g3 Nd5 44.Na3 Kd6 45.Kb5 f5 46.Nc4+ Ke6 47.g5 f4 48.g4 Nc3+ 49.Kc5 Ne2 50.b4 Nc1! 51.Nb2**



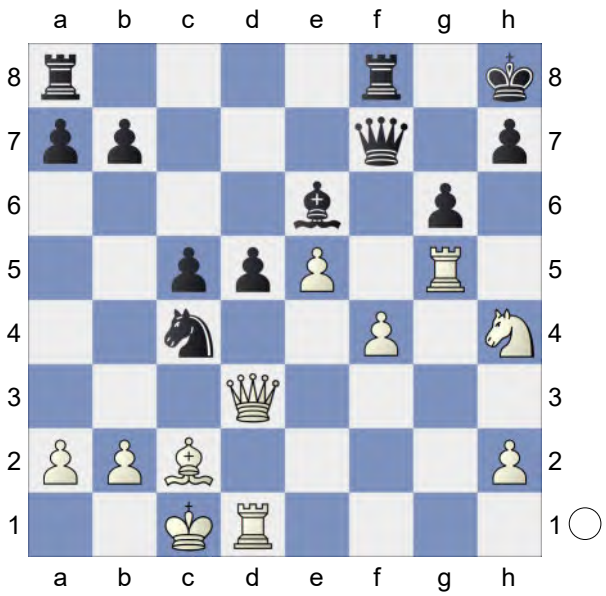
Against Nd3+. Hoping for Kb6. **51...Nb3+ 52.Kb6** Nd3 is the strong threat. **52...Nd4 53.Kxb7** Threatens to win with Ka6. **53...Kd5 54.Kc7 Nxf3 55.Nd3** Black must now prevent b5. **55...Kc4 56.Nxf4 Nxg5 57.Nxg6 Kxb4 58.Kd7** Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless) **½-½**

D35

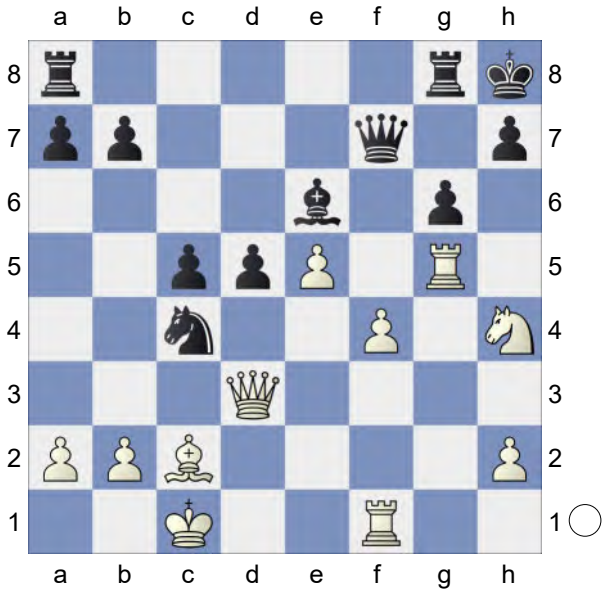
□ **Erigaisi Arjun** **2801**
■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2717**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (4.7) 21.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bf4 Bd6N**
[6...Bf5 7.h3 Nbd7 8.g4 Bg6 9.Qb3 0-0 10.Bg2 Nb6 11.a4 a5 12.0-0 Chapter 3- QGD-6...Bf5 7.h3 c-Part I & other 6th move alt. [IM Kushager Krishnater]]
[6...0-0 7.g3 *(7.e3 c6 8.Bd3 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.Qc2 Nbd7 11.Ne5 Bg6 12.g4 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Nd7 15.Bg3 Bh4 16.Rg1 Re8 17.0-0-0 b5 18.Qf5 Bxg3 19.Rxg3 a5 20.g5 a4 21.h4 b4* Nguyen,P (1627) -Morozevich,K (1484) Montesilvano 2024 0-1 (48)*)* 7...c6 8.Bg2 Nh5 9.Be3 Bd6 10.Ne5 Qe7 11.Nd3 f5 12.Qd2 Nd7 13.Bf3 Nhf6 14.Bf4 Ne4 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Qf4 Qf6 17.e3 g5 18.Qc7 Rf7 19.Qa5 Re7 20.h4 Nb6 21.hxg5 Eismont,O (2465) -Bezgodov,A (2570) Perm 1997 CBM 058 [Atlas,Valeri] ½-½ (62) Nxg5 22.Be2 Bd7 23.Ne5 Ne4 24.Rh2 Be6 25.Bd3 Nd7 26.Nxd7 Bxd7 27.Bxe4 fxe4 28.Ne2 b6 29.Qa3 Bg4 30.Nf4 Rd7 31.Kd2 Bf3 32.b3 c5 33.Qb2 Rc8 34.Rc1 b5 35.b4 c4 36.Kc3 Eismont,I (2292)-Ljubarskij,J (2290) Essen 2005 CBM 108 Extra [ChessBase II] 1-0 (62)]
7.e3 -0.05/21
[7.Be5± 0.33/20 deserves consideration.]
7...Bxf4= 8.exf4 The position is equal. **8...0-0 9.Ne5 Nc6 10.f3 Be6** 0.21/20
[10...Nd7 -0.15/20 is more appropriate.]
11.Qd2 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.0-0-0 c6 14.g4 f5! 15.Ne2 -0.62/21
[15.Rg1= -0.06/18]
15...fxg4∓ 16.Nd4 Qe7 17.Rg1 gxf3 Threatens to win with ...Bf5. **18.Bd3** Prevents Bf5. **18...Kh8** -0.87/20
[⌓18...Nc5 -1.50/22 19.f5 Nxd3+ 20.Qxd3 f2 21.Nxe6 fxg1N 22.Rxg1 Rf7]
19.Bc2∓ c5 -0.01/21
[19...g6∓ -1.04/20 White should prevent ...Rf7. 20.Nxf3 Bf5 21.Bxf5 Rxf5]
20.Nxf3= Nb6
[20...g6 21.Bxg6 d4 22.Bb1±]
21.Rg5! aiming for Rh5.
[But not 21.Qd3? g6 22.Ng5 Rxf4-+]
21...Nc4 1.11/21
[21...g6= 0.01/20 22.Bxg6 Nc4]
22.Qd3!± White has strong compensation. **22...g6 23.Nh4! Qf7**
[23...Rxf4 leads to mate. 24.Nxg6+! Kg7 25.Nxe7+ Kf8 26.Nxd5 Rd8 27.Rf1! Rxd5 28.Rxf4+ Ke8 29.Qxh7]

(Diagram)



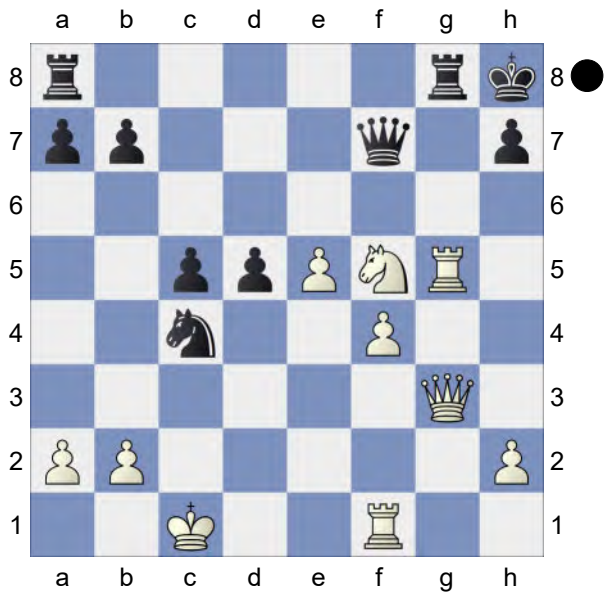
24.Rf1 Rg8



25.Qg3! Strongly threatening Nxg6+!
25...Bf5 26.Bxf5 0.69/23
[26.Nxf5± 1.38/24 gxf5 27.b3 *(27.Rxf5? Qxf5 28.Bxf5 Rxg3-+)*]
26...gxf5± 27.Nxf5 -2.44/23
[27.Re1!± 0.51/22 keeps the upper hand.]

(Diagram)

This move loses the game for White.



27...Qxf5!!-+ 28.Rxf5 White wants to mate with Rg5. **28...Rxg3 29.hxg3±** Endgame KRR-KRN **29...Ne3! 30.Rg5 Nxf1-+** KRN-KR **31.e6 Ne3 32.Re5 d4 33.Rxc5 b6 34.Rh5 Kg7 35.Kd2 Re8 36.f5 Kf6 37.Rxh7 Nxf5 38.Rxa7 Rxe6 39.g4 Nh4** Weighted Error Value: White=0. 24 (precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)
0-1

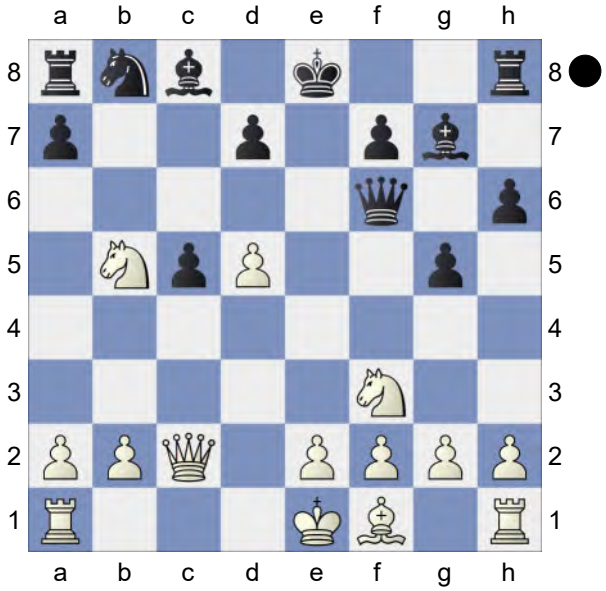
E10
□ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**
■ **Erigaisi Arjun** **2801**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (5.1) 22.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

E10: Blumenfeld Gambit **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 b5 5.Bg5 exd5 6.cxd5 h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Qc2 g5** 0.83/21
[8...d6= 0.25/21 remains equal.]
[8...c4 9.a4 Bb4+ 10.Nc3 bxa4 11.Rxa4 a5 12.e3 0-0 13.Bxc4 Ba6 14.Bxa6 Nxa6 15.0-0 Rfc8 16.Nd4 Nc7 17.Rfa1 Qe5 18.Qf5 Qxf5 19.Nxf5 g6 20.Nxh6+ Kg7 21.Ng4

Na6 22.Ne5 Nc5 23.R4a2 Dzagnidze,N (2555) -Adams,M (2725) Tradewise Gibratar Chess Festival 2013 2013 [John Emms] 0-1 (47)]
[8...Na6 9.Nc3 Nc7 10.e4 b4 11.Nb5 Nxb5 12.Bxb5 Bd6 13.e5 Bxe5 14.Qe4 Rb8 15.Nxe5 Rxb5 16.Ng6+ Kd8 17.Nxh8 g6 18.0-0 Qxh8 19.d6 Qf6 20.Rad1 Bb7 21.Qc4 Bc6 22.Rfe1 Qg5 23.g3 Goormachtigh,J (2136)-Maryasin,B (2267) Bregenz 2023 1-0 (67)]

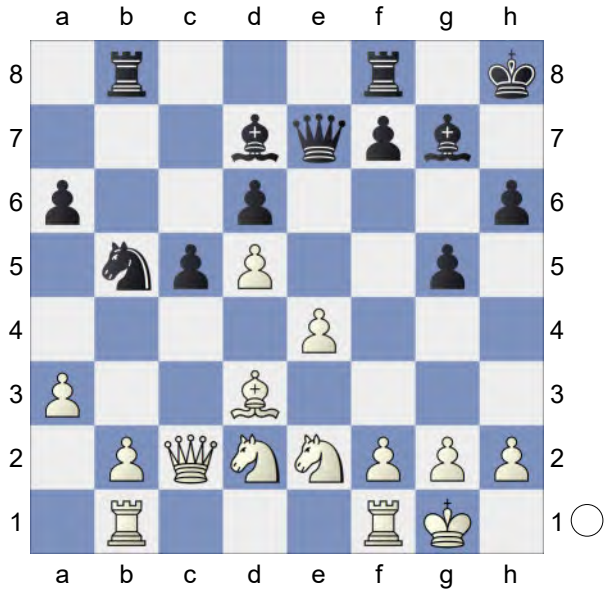
9.Nc3± Bg7N
[9...a6 10.Ne4 Qg6 11.h4 Bg7 12.hxg5 c4 13.Nh4 Qb6 14.Nf5 Be5 15.f4 Qa5+ 16.Nc3 1-0 (16) Deviatkin,A (2555)-Volkov,S (2254) Ch Moscow (team) 2007 CT-2576 [Andrey Deviatkin (www. chesstoday. net)]]

10.Nxb5



aiming for Nc7+. **10...Na6** Inhibits Nc7+. White is better. **11.e3 0-0 12.a3** Against Nb4. &Bianco is more active. **12...d6 13.Bd3** Inhibits Bf5. **13...Bd7**
[Weaker is 13...Qxb2 14.Qxb2 Bxb2 15.Rb1±]

14.Nc3 Nc7 15.0-0 Rab8 16.Nd2 Qe7 17.e4 a6 18.Rab1 Nb5 19.Ne2 Kh8 1.17/21
[⌓19...Nd4 0.81/18 20.Nxd4 Bxd4]



20.Nc4! Nd4 21.Nxd4 Bxd4 22.Na5 Rb6 23.Nc4 0.01/19
[White should play 23.b4± 1.23/21]

23...Rbb8= 24.Na5 0.01/19
[24.Kh1± 1.11/18]

24...Rb6! 25.b3 Qf6 26.Kh1 Rfb8 27.Nc4 R6b7 28.Na5 0.01/19
[28.Be2± 1.09/22]

28...Rb6! 29.Nc4 0.01/21
[Better is 29.Qd1± 1.16/22]

29...R6b7 30.Na5 -0.01/19
[30.Qd1± 1.18/20]

30...Rb6! Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

C11

□ **Wei,Yi** **2751**
■ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2695**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (5.2) 22.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C11: French: Classical System: 4 e5 and 4 Bg5 dxe4 **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Qd2 b5 9.h4 Bb7 10.Bd3N**
[10.Qf2 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Qc7 13.Bd3 Bc5 14.Ne2 f6 15.0-0 0-0 16.Qe3 fxe5 17.fxe5 Rxf1+ 18.Rxf1 Bxd4 19.Nxd4 Qxe5 20.Qxe5 Nxe5 21.Re1 Nc4 22.Bxc4 dxc4 23.Rxe6 c3 24.b4 Rd8 Niemann,H (2733)-Aronian,L (2738) Saint Louis 2024 ½-½ (34)]
[10.h5 b4 *(10...h6 11.a3 Qa5 12.Rd1 b4 13.axb4 Qxb4 14.Be2 cxd4 15.Nxd4 Bc5 16.Nb3 Bb6 17.0-0 0-0 18.Bxb6 Qxb6+ 19.Kh2 a5 20.Na4 Qc7 21.Rf3 Rae8 22.Nac5 Nxc5 23.Nxc5 Nxe5 24.fxe5 Qxc5 25.Rg3* Pranav,A (2509) -Niemann,H (2667) Mexico City 2023 0-1 (62)*)* 11.Na4 cxd4 12.Bf2 Qc7 13.Bd3 Na5 14.Nxd4 Nc4 15.Qc1 Bc6 16.Nxc6 Qxc6 17.b3 Na3 18.0-0 Rc8 19.Qe3 g6 20.Qh3 Bh6 21.Be3 Nb5 22.Rf3 Nc3 23.Nxc3 Qxc3 24.Raf1 Qc6 Buchicchio,G (2635)-Bancroft,H (2625) Vallehermosa 1991 Telechess CBM 89 [Sam Collins] 1-0 (41)]
10...b4 11.Na4 Nxd4 Black has an edge. **12.Nxd4 cxd4 13.Bxd4 Bc6 14.b3 Bxa4 15.bxa4 Bc5 16.Bxc5 Nxc5 17.Qxb4 Nxd3+** The position is equal. **18.cxd3 Rb8! 19.Qc5 Rc8 20.Qb4** With the idea Rb1. **20...Rb8!**
[Don't play 20...Rc2 21.0-0±]
21.Qc5 Rc8 22.Qb4 Rb8! Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) / Black=0.01 (flawless)
[Don't take 22...Rc2 23.0-0±]
½-½

D38

□ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2717**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (5.3) 22.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4) **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.Qa4+ Nc6 8.e3 0-0 9.Be2 dxc4 10.0-0 Qe7** The position is equal. **11.Bxc4 Na5 12.Bd3 Bxc3 13.bxc3 b6 14.Qb4N Qd6 15.Rfd1 Bb7 16.Rac1 Rac8 17.Qxd6** -0.32/25
[17.Ne5= 0.15/21]
17...cxd6∓ 18.Nd2! Rc7 19.Rc2 Rfc8 20.Rdc1 Kf8 21.f3 Ke7 22.e4 g5 23.Kf2 e5 0.48/23
[23...h5= -0.21/20]
24.Nf1!± exd4 25.cxd4 Rxc2+ 26.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 27.Bxc2= Endgame KBN-KBN **27...Bc8 28.Bd3** 0.28/24
[28.Ne3± 0.62/23 deserves consideration.]
28...Nc6 29.Ke3 a6 30.Nd2 b5 31.Nb3 d5 32.Nc5
[32.exd5 Nb4=]
32...Kd6 33.Bc2 Ne5 34.Bb3 Nc4+ 35.Kd3 Nb6 36.Kc3 -0.01/26
[36.a4!± 0.39/25 is more appropriate.]
36...a5! 37.a3 f6 38.Ba2 Kc6 39.g3 Bh3 40.Nb3 Na4+ 41.Kc2 Bg2 1.10/25
[41...dxe4= 0.01/23 keeps the

balance. 42.fxe4 f5]

42.e5!±

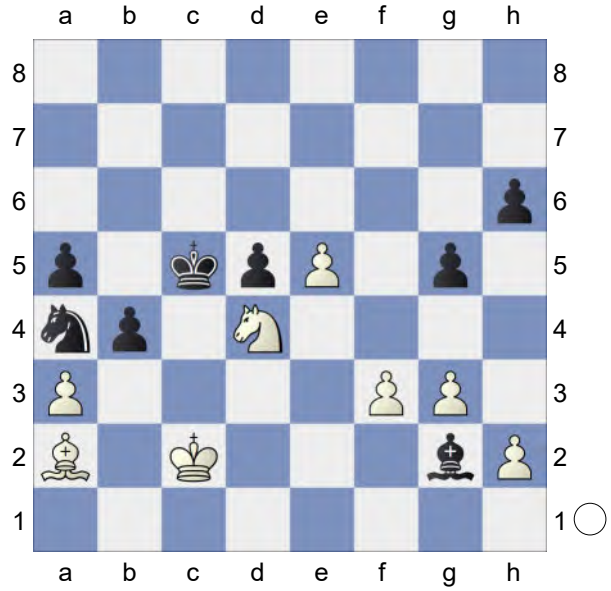
[42.Nxa5+?! Kb6 43.e5 fxe5=]

42...fxe5 43.dxe5 Hoping for Nd4+.

43...b4 1.91/25

[43...Kd7± 0.98/22]

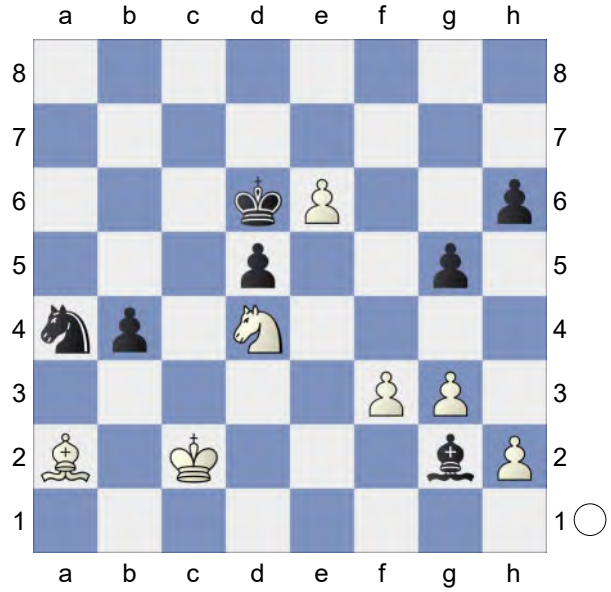
44.Nd4++- Kc5



45.e6! Kd6

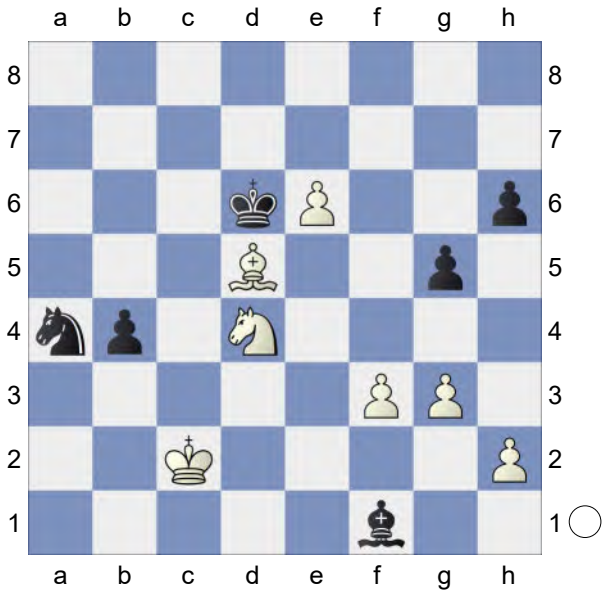
[45...Kxd4? 46.e7 Nc3 47.axb4!+-]

46.axb4 axb4



47.Bxd5! Bf1

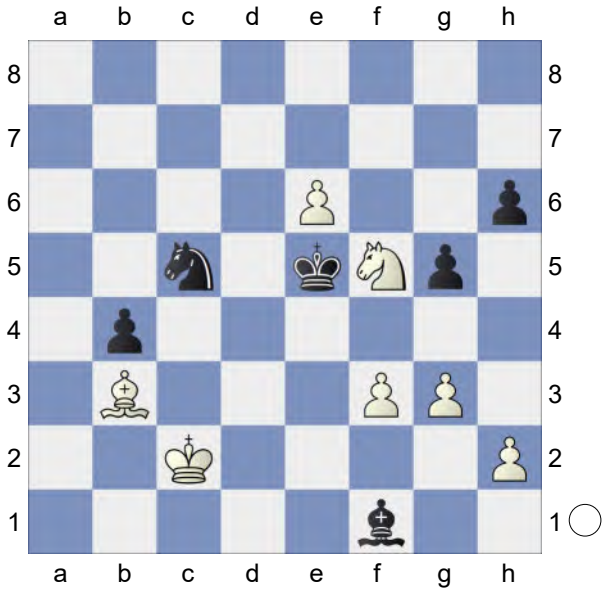
[47...Kxd5? 48.e7! Kxd4 49.e8Q+-]



48.Bb3 1.23/24

[48.Ba2!+- 1.92/25]

48...Nc5± 49.Nf5+ Ke5



...Bd3+ is the strong threat. **50.e7! Bd3+**

[50...Bb5 51.Ng7]

51.Kd2

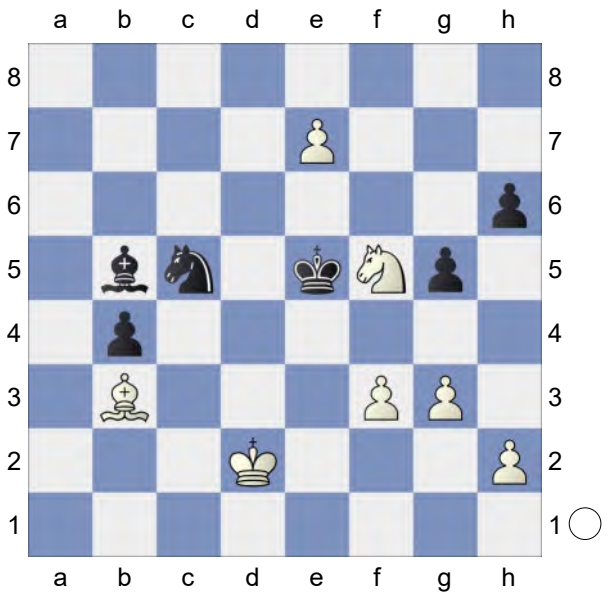
[Resist 51.Kb2 Bb5+-]

51...Bb5

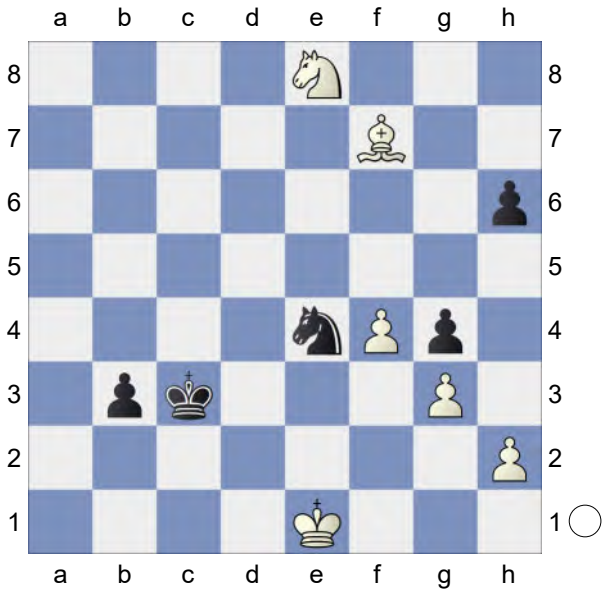
(Diagram)

52.Bc4 Ba4

[52...Bc6 53.Ng7]



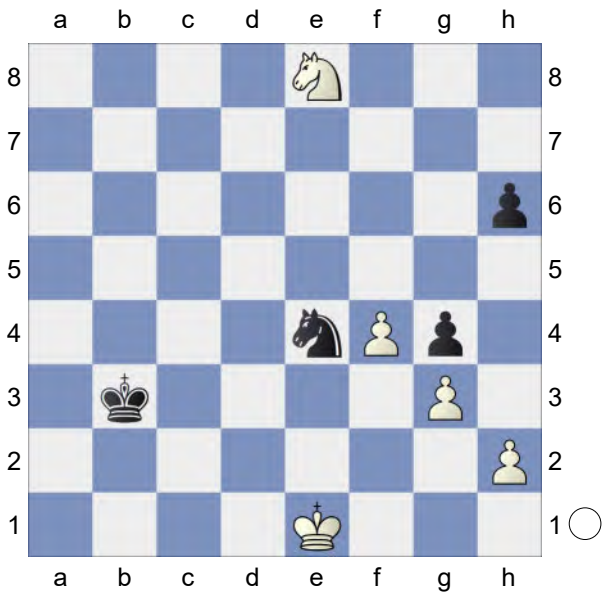
53.Ng7 g4 5.05/26
[⌓53...Bc6 3.58/24 54.e8Q+ Bxe8 55.Nxe8 Kd4]
54.f4++- White is clearly winning.
54...Kd4 55.Bf7 Ne4+ 56.Ke1 Kc3 57.e8Q Bxe8 58.Nxe8 b3



59.Bxb3 Kxb3

(Diagram)

60.Ke2! Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.15 (very precise)
1-0



C10
□ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
■ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2741**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (5.4) 22.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C10: French with 3 Nc3: Unusual Black 3rd moves and 3...dxe4 It sometimes happens that I try examining the initial position with a beginner's eyes, after locking up all the experience and knowledge accumulated over the years in a drawer in the back in my mind. "It is absolutely symmetrical" is one of the first things I remark, generating the natural question: "Would it be just dead equal?" But then the drawer opens little by little and I remember that keeping the symmetry for more than 2-3 moves is almost impossible for Black if White does not cooperate a bit. And then I think of so many symmetrical variations which are not drawish at all, not in practical games, at least. I would gladly skip the next step, when I remember that in almost all the games when I chose a

symmetrical variation with White I fatally ended up struggling despite my initial extra tempo, or as if White actually was in zugzwang. This game ended in a draw and it must be more than a coincidence that the perfect symmetry lasted for quite long. However, White missed a promising continuation at the critical moment. Ma''It sometimes happens that I try examining the initial position with a beginner's eyes, after locking up all the experience and knowledge accumulated over the years in a drawer in the back in my mind. "It is absolutely symmetrical" is one of the first things I remark, generating the natural question: "Would it be just dead equal?" But then the drawer opens little by little and I remember that keeping the symmetry for more than 2-3 moves is almost impossible for Black if White does not cooperate a bit. And then I think of so many symmetrical variations which are not drawish at all, not in practical games, at least. I would gladly skip the next step, when I remember that in almost all the games when I chose a symmetrical variation with White I fatally ended up struggling despite my initial extra tempo, or as if White actually was in zugzwang. This game ended in a draw and it must be more than a coincidence that the perfect symmetry lasted for quite long. However, White missed a promising continuation at the critical moment. Marin,Mihail: 'John Watson: 'Marin,M: 'It sometimes happens that I try examining the initial position with a beginner's eyes, after locking up all the experience and knowledge accumulated over the years in a drawer in the back in my mind. "It is absolutely symmetrical" is one of the first things I remark, generating the natural question: "Would it be just dead equal?" But then the drawer opens little by little and I remember that keeping the symmetry for more than 2-3 moves is almost impossible for Black if White does not cooperate a bit. And then I think of so many symmetrical variations which are not drawish at all, not in practical games, at least. I would gladly skip the next step, when I remember that in almost all the games when I chose a symmetrical variation with White I fatally ended up struggling despite my initial extra tempo, or as if White actually was in zugzwang. This game ended in a draw and it must be more than a coincidence that the perfect symmetry lasted for quite long. However, White missed a promising continuation at the critical moment.'" Marin,Mihail: 'It sometimes happens that I try examining the initial position with a beginner's eyes, after locking up all the experience and knowledge accumulated over the years in a drawer in the back in my mind. "It is absolutely symmetrical" is one of the first things I remark, generating the natural question: "Would it be just dead equal?" But then the drawer opens little by little and I remember that keeping the symmetry for more than 2-3 moves is almost impossible for Black if White does not cooperate a bit. And then I think of so many symmetrical variations which are not drawish at all, not in practical games, at least. I would gladly skip the next step, when I remember that in almost all the games when I chose a symmetrical variation with White I fatally ended up struggling despite my initial extra tempo, or as if White actually was in zugzwang. This game ended in a draw and it must be more than a coincidence

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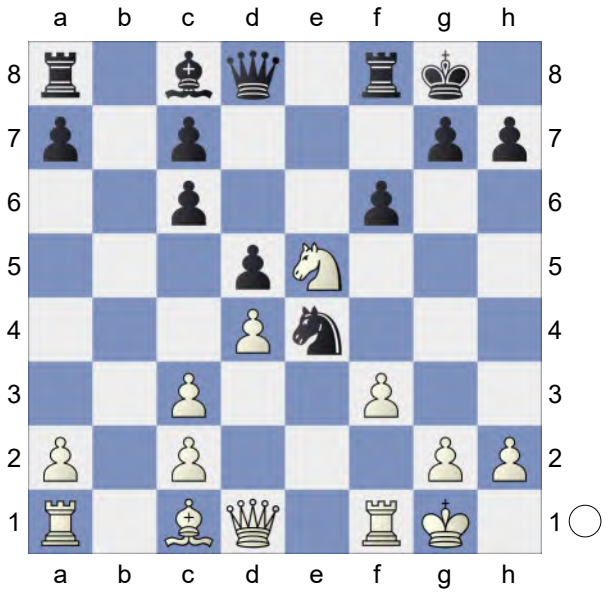
Marin,Mihail: 'It sometimes happens that I try examining the initial position with a beginner's eyes, after locking up all the experience and knowledge accumulated over the years in a drawer in the back in my mind. "It is absolutely symmetrical" is one of the first things I remark, generating the natural question: "Would it be just dead equal?" But then the drawer opens little by little and I remember that keeping the symmetry for more than 2-3 moves is almost impossible for Black if White does not cooperate a bit. And then I think of so many symmetrical variations which are not drawish at all, not in practical games, at least. I would gladly skip the next step, when I remember that in almost all the games when I chose a symmetrical variation with White I fatally ended up struggling despite my initial extra tempo, or as if White actually was in zugzwang. This game ended in a draw and it must be more than a coincidence that the perfect symmetry lasted for quite long. However, White missed a promising continuation at the critical moment. ' **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bb5 Bb4 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Ne5 Bxc3 10.bxc3 Ne4 11.Re1N**

[11.f3!? f6

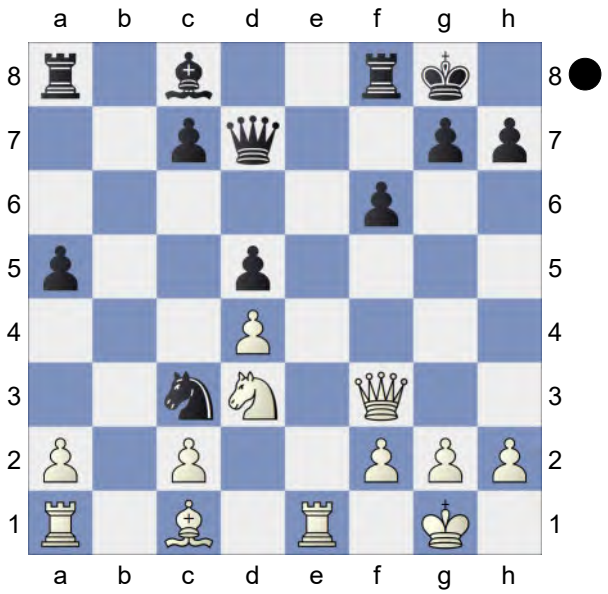


12.Ba3!± Nd6 13.Nxc6 Qd7 14.Bxd6 cxd6 15.Nb4 Bb7 16.Qd2 Rfc8 17.Rfe1 Qc7 18.Rab1 Qxc3 19.Re8+ Kf7 20.Qxc3 Rxc3 21.Rxa8 Bxa8 22.Rb3 Rc4 23.c3 a5 24.Nc2 Bc6 25.Ra3 a4 26.Nb4 Be8 27.Nxd5 Dominguez Perez, L (2760)-Jobava,B (2713) Tromsoe 2014 CBM

162 [Marin,M] ½-½ (43) Ke6 28.Nf4+ Kd7 29.Nd5 Kc6 30.Ne3 Kb5 31.Nxc4 Kxc4 32.Kf2 d5 33.Ke3 Bd7 34.h4 g6 35.Kd2 h6 36.Ke3 Be8 37.g3 Bd7 38.Ke2 Be8 39.Kd2 Bc6 40.Ke3 Bd7 41.f4 f5 42.Kd2 Dominguez Perez,L (2739)-Mamedyarov,S (2801) Saint Louis 2018 CBM 187 [Kuzmin, Alexey] ½-½ (43)]

[11.Ba3 Re8 12.c4 dxc4 13.Nxc6 Qf6 14.Ne7+ Kh8 15.Nd5 Qd8 16.Ne3 Bb7 17.d5 ½-½ (17) 7.Nge2 Qa5 8.Nc1 cd4_61 (2670) -Behrhorst, F (2530) Berlin 2006 200 Traps In The Opening [WIT 29/2/1908; 4LS #17 p3; Harding]]

11...f6 12.Nxc6 Qd7 13.Nb4 a5 14.Nd3 Nxc3 15.Qf3



Nc5 is the strong threat. **15...Ne4 16.Ba3 Re8 17.Nc5** Prevents Qa4. **17...Qf5 18.c4 Be6**

[18...c6 is more complex. 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.Qxf5 Bxf5 21.Na4 Nd2]

19.Nxe4 Qxf3 20.gxf3 aiming for cxd5. **20...dxe4 21.fxe4 Bxc4 22.Rac1 Bxa2 23.Rxc7 f5** 0.45/21

[23...Rac8= 0.13/23 should be considered. 24.Ra7 f5]

24.f3± fxe4 25.fxe4 Ra6 26.Re2 Bf7 27.Kf2 0.01/22

[27.Rf2± 0.78/22 Rg6+ 28.Kf1]

27...Rf6+ 28.Ke1 Rfe6 29.e5 Rg6 30.Rf2 0.28/21 &Bianco is more active.

[30.Ra7± 0.66/20]

30...Bb3= 31.Kd2 h6 32.Rf3 0.01/24

[32.Ra7± 0.43/20]

32...a4 33.Rg3 Inhibits Rg2+. **33...Rxg3 34.hxg3** Endgame KRB-KRB **34...Re6 35.Ke3** Hoping for Ke4. **35...Rg6 36.Kf2 Rg4 37.Rd7 Re4 38.Bb4 Bd1 39.Bc5 Re2+ 40.Kf1** Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0. 09 (flawless)

½-½

B12

□ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2768**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (5.5) 22.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

B12: Caro-Kann: Advance Variation For both players, the play-off for 3rd place must have been quite an anti-climax. The World Champion obviously wanted to add the World Cup to his resume of tournament victories, and for Fedoseev he would have preferred facing Duda, as then a spot in the candidates tournament would have been at stake. But with less at stake, perhaps the players played more freely and created two masterpieces of positional attacking chess. The first one, where Magnus won with the black pieces by sacrifing an exchange, to be followed by this second game: In this example, we will examine the move 4.c4. Even though this advance is more effective after the

inclusion of the moves h2-h4 and ...h7-h5, we need to handle the arising positions with care. The first critical position arises after the moves **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Nge2N**

[6.cxd5 cxd5 *(6...Qxd5 7.Nge2 Qd8 8.a3 Ba5 9.Ng3 Ne7 10.Bc4 Bg6 11.h4 h6 12.h5 Bh7 13.Qg4 Kf8 14.0-0 Nd7 15.Nce4 Bc7 16.Ba2 Nf5 17.Nxf5 Bxf5 18.Qf3 Qe7 19.Ng3 Bh7 20.Qg4 c5 21.Bd2* Carlsen, M (2847)-Fedoseev,V (2696) Krasnaya Polyana 2021 CBM 204 [Nielsen,Peter Heine] 1-0 (57) *)*

A) 7.h4 h6 8.g4 Bh7 9.h5 Nc6 10.Bd3

A1) 10...Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Qb6 12.Nge2 Nge7 13.f4 Paravyan, D (2654)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) chess. com (Int.-blitz) 149/(29) 2020 Chess Informant 149 [Ivanisevic,Ivan] *(13.Kf1 f6 14.exf6 gxf6 15.Qf3* Torosyan,N (2374)-Davtyan,A (2278) Armenia 149/(29) 2021 *)*;

A2) 10...Be4 11.Bxe4 dxe4 12.Nge2 f6 13.Qb3 Qd5 14.0-0 Qxb3 15.axb3 fxe5 16.d5 Nd4 17.Nxd4 exd4 18.Nb5 Ke7 19.dxe6 d3 20.Nc7 Nf6 21.Nxa8 Rxa8 Zemlyanskii,I (2495)-Cheparinov,I (2638) New York 2024 0-1 (40);

B) 7.Qa4+ Nc6 8.Bb5 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nge7 10.Ne2 0-0 11.Ng3 Bg6 12.0-0 a6 13.Be2 Rc8 Okike,D (2177)-Solon,N (2306) chess.com (Int.-blitz) 149/(29) 2021]

[6.Qb3 a5 7.a3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 b5 10.Be2 a4 11.Qb2 Ne7 12.Nf3 Nd7 13.0-0 Nb6 14.Nh4 Be4 15.Qd2 h6 16.Bb2 Ned5 17.g3 Nc4 18.Bxc4 bxc4 19.Rae1 Bd3 20.f4 Bxf1 4.c4 [GM Grigor Grigorov]]

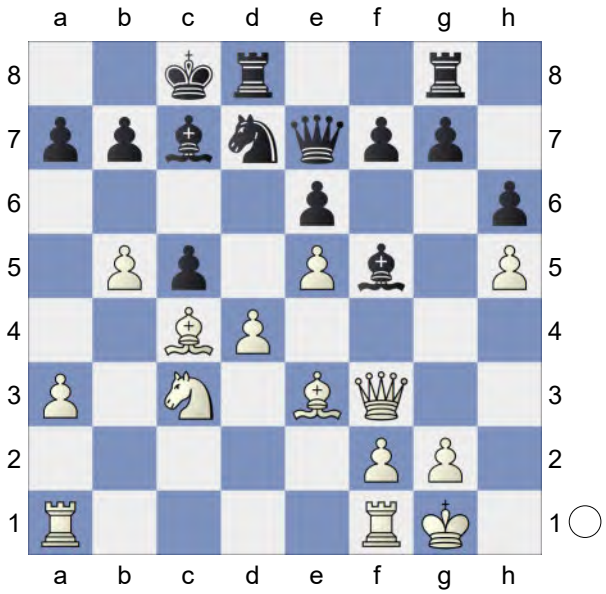
6...Ne7 7.a3 Ba5 8.b4 White has an edge. **8...Bc7 9.Ng3 Bg6 10.h4 h6 11.h5 Bh7 12.Qg4 Rg8 13.Be2 dxc4 14.Bxc4 Nd7 15.0-0 Nf5** 0.65/20

[15...Nb6= 0.14/21 16.Bb3 Qd7]

16.Be3 0.30/19

[16.Rd1± 0.65/20]

16...Qe7= 17.b5 And now bxc6 would win. **17...c5 18.Nxf5 Bxf5 19.Qf3 0-0-0**



Threatens to win with ...Nb6. **20.Nd5** -0.60/23 **exd5∓ 21.Bxd5**

(Diagram)

Kb8 22.Qxf5

(Diagram)

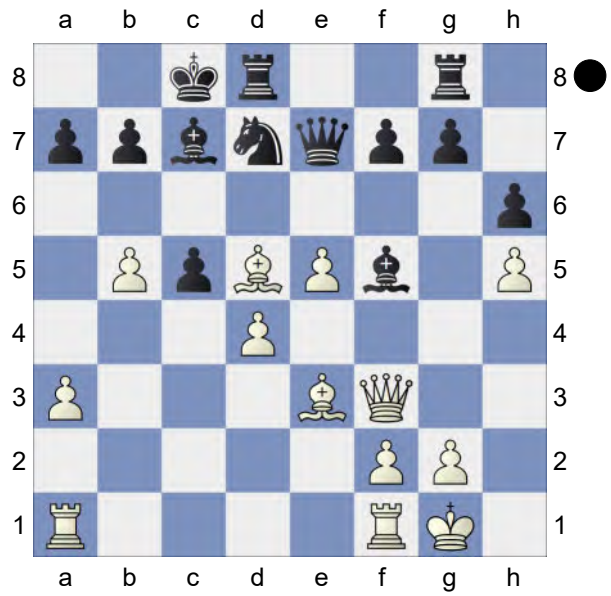
Nxe5 23.dxe5 Rxd5 24.f4 Rgd8 25.Qe4 -1.27/22

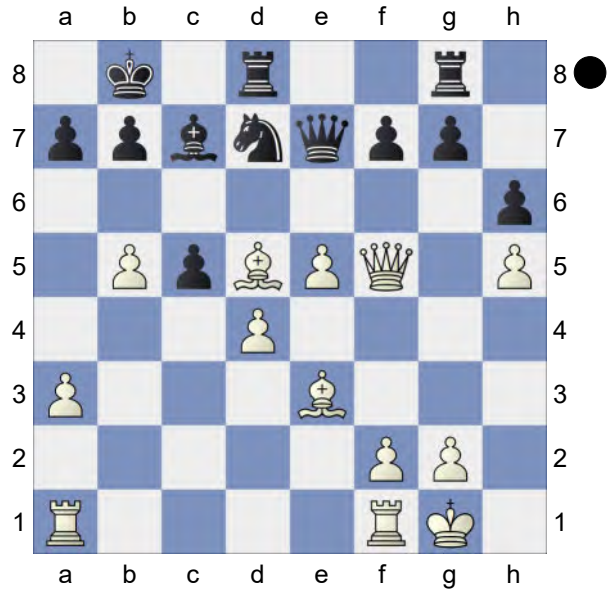
[⌓25.Qc2 -0.83/19]

25...f6∓ 26.a4 fxe5 -0.40/21

[26...b6∓ -1.28/23 27.Rac1 fxe5]

27.a5∓ Qe8 28.b6 axb6 29.axb6



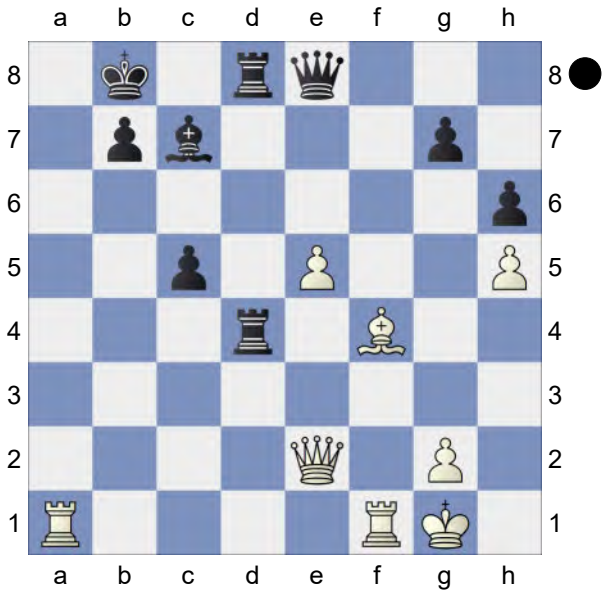


Bxb6 30.fxe5 Bc7
[30...Qxe5? 31.Bf4 c4+ 32.Kh1 Qxf4 33.Qxf4++-]
[30...Qxh5? 31.e6 Bc7 32.e7 Bh2+ 33.Kf2+-]

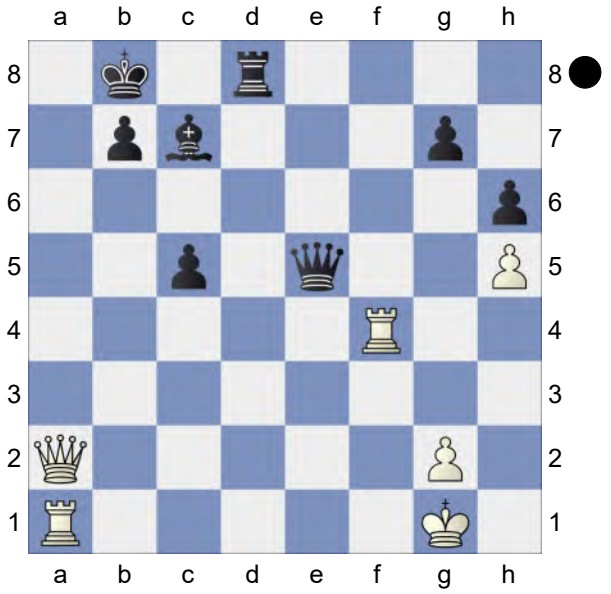
31.Bf4 -1.78/26
[31.e6∓ -1.05/25 was worth a try. Re5 32.Qf3]

31...Rd4↑ Keeping White busy.
[31...Bxe5? 32.Rfe1 Qxh5 33.Bxe5+ Qxe5 34.Qxe5+ Rxe5 35.Rxe5+-]

32.Qe2 -3.28/21
[⩲32.Qe1 -1.84/26]



32...Rxf4! 33.Rxf4 Qxe5 34.Qa2



Qe3+!
[Stronger than 34...Rd1+ 35.Rxd1 Qxf4 36.Qg8+ Ka7 37.Ra1+ Kb6 38.Qxg7= *(38.Qb3+ Kc6=)*]

35.Rf2 Bg3 Active counter play!

36.Qa8+? -0.50/5
[36.Qe2-+ -3.81/24 Bxf2+ 37.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 38.Kxf2]

36...Kc7∓ Really sharp! Now White is beyond hope. **37.Qa5+** Black is clearly winning. **37...b6 38.Qa7+ Kc6**

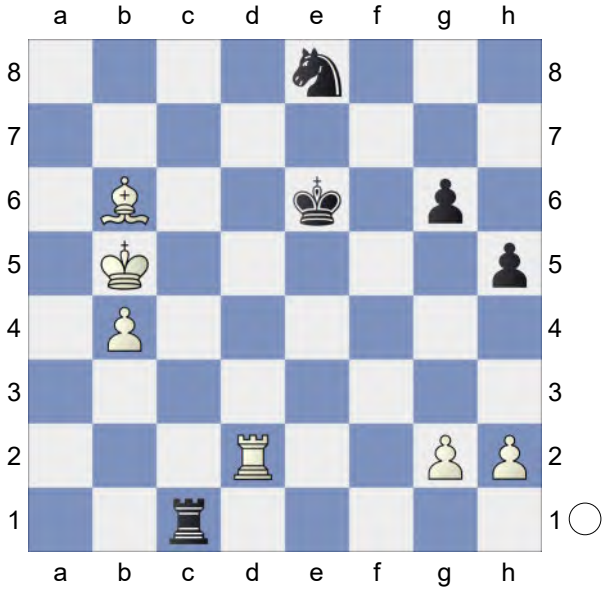
39.Qa4+ b5 40.Qa6+ Kd5 41.Qb7+ Kc4 42.Qf7+ Rd5 43.Raa2 Black must now prevent Rac2+. **43...Bxf2+ 44.Rxf2 Qd4 45.Kh2 Qe5+ 46.Kg1 Kb4 47.Rf1 Rd2** Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
0-1

D45

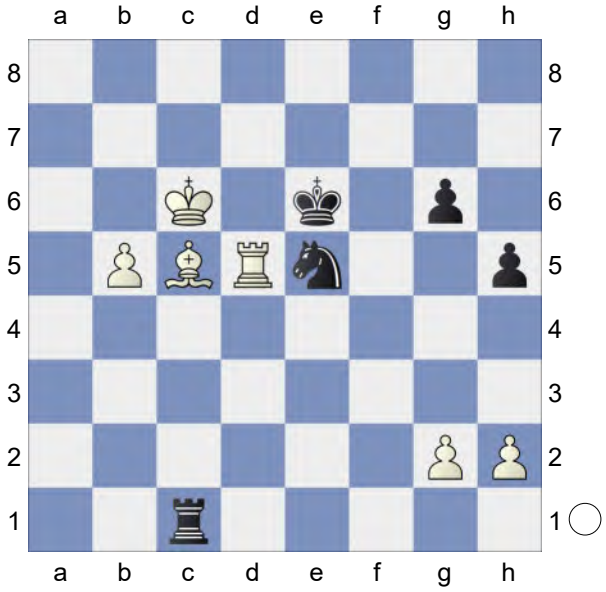
□ **Gukesh D** **2777**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (5.6) 22.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D45: Semi-Slav: 5 e3 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd2 d5 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Qc2**
[7.Rc1 dxc4 8.Bxc4 b6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.a3 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Ne4 12.Bb4 c5 13.dxc5 Ndxc5 14.Qe2 Qf6 15.Nd4 Rfd8 16.f3 Nd6 17.Ba2 Ba6 18.Qd1 Bxf1 19.Qxf1 Rac8 20.Rd1 Qe5 21.Re1 Nf5 Mladenov,P (2660)-Gurevich,M (2607) Novi Sad 2023 Inf11 [John Watson] 0-1 (91)]
7...c6N
[7...c5 8.dxc5 Nxc5 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Bxd2+ 11.Qxd2 exd5 12.Be2 Ne4 13.Qb4 Bg4 14.0-0 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Ng5 16.Be2 Qf6 17.Qxb7 Rab8 18.Qxa7 Rxb2 19.Qa6 Ne4 20.Qxf6 gxf6 21.Bf3 Nd2 22.Rfd1 Krasenkow,M (2628) - Gajewski,G (2599) Warsaw 2018 CBM 185 [Szabo,Krisztian] 1-0 (57) Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 Rc8 24.a4 Rcc2 25.Rdb1 Rxb1+ 26.Rxb1 Ra2 27.Rb4 Kg7 28.Rg4+ Kh6 29.Kg2 f5 30.Rb4 Kg6 31.Kg3 Kf6 32.Rb6+ Kg7 33.Ra6 f4+ 34.Kxf4 Rxf2 35.h4 Rh2 36.Kg3 Re2 37.Rd6 Bolz,B (2628)-Novikov,S (2599) Mangalia 2018 DVD_Budapest Gambit [Dublin Evening Mail 15/2/1902; Harding] 1-0 (57)]
[7...Re8 8.a3 Bf8 9.Bd3 c5 10.0-0 b6 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Ng5 g6 13.f4 Bg7 14.f5 Nf8 15.fxg6 hxg6 16.dxc5 Be6 17.c6 Ng4 18.e4 Qd6 19.Bf4 Qc5+ 20.Kh1 dxe4 21.Ngxe4 Qh5 22.Be2 Galaviz Medina,S (2398)-Cardoso Cardoso,J (2492) Juan Dolio 2023 1-0 (38)]
8.Be2 b6 9.0-0 a5 10.a3 White has an edge. **10...Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Ne4 12.Be1 Ba6**
[12...c5 feels hotter. 13.Ne5 Qg5 14.Bd3 Nxe5 15.f4 Qg6]
13.Bd3 h6 14.Bxe4 dxe4 15.Nd2 f5 16.f3 exf3 17.Nxf3 c5 18.Rd1 cxd4 19.Rxd4 Qe8 20.Bg3 e5 21.Rd6 Rc8 22.Rfd1 f4 0.89/23 **23.exf4±**
[23.Rxd7?! fxg3 24.hxg3 Rxc4=]
23...exf4 24.Bf2
[24.Rxd7?! fxg3 25.hxg3 *(25.Qc3 Rf7=)* 25...Bb5!=]
[24.Re1 keeps more tension. Qf7 25.Qd1 fxg3 26.Rxd7 Qxc4 27.Ree7]
24...Rf7
[24...Rxc4? 25.Qd3 Nb8 26.Rd8+- *(26.Rxb6 Qe4±; 26.Bxb6 Rc8±)*]
25.R1d4 &Bianco is much more active. **25...Bb7 26.Qd1 Bc6 27.b4 axb4 28.axb4 Qe7 29.Qd3 Nf6 30.Rxf4** 0.51/23
[30.b5± 0.96/21 Bb7 31.h3 *(31.Rxf4 Ra8±; 31.Rxb6 Ng4±)*]
30...Be4 1.05/24
[30...Ne8!± 0.51/23 31.Rdd4 *(31.Rxf7 Qxd6 32.Qf5 Bxf3±)* 31...Ra8]
31.Qd4 Bxf3 32.Rxf3 Qe2 33.Rd8+
[Wrong is 33.Rxb6? Rd7 34.Re3

(34.Rd6? Rxc4 35.Qe3 Qxe3-+)
34...Qxf2+!! 35.Kxf2 Rxd4-+]
[33.Qxb6?! Rxc4 34.Rd8+ Kh7=]
33...Rxd8 34.Qxd8+ Rf8 35.Qd3 Qxd3 36.Rxd3 Endgame KRB-KRN
36...Rc8 37.Rd4 Kf7 38.Kf1 Ra8 39.Ke2 Ra4 40.Be1 Ke6 Against Rd6+
41.Bd2 h5 42.Kd3 Ng4 1.71/22
[42...Ra2± 1.34/20 43.g3 Ng4]
43.Kc3+- Nf6 2.21/23
[43...Nxh2 1.72/21 was necessary. 44.Re4+ Kd7]
44.Kb3 Ra1 45.Bc3 Rb1+ 46.Kc2 Rf1 47.Rd2 Ne8 48.Kb3 g6 2.44/23
[⌓48...Rb1+ 1.86/22 49.Rb2 Rxb2+ 50.Bxb2 Kd7]
49.Bd4 Rb1+ 50.Ka4 Rc1 51.Bxb6 Hoping for c5. **51...Rxc4 52.Kb5 Rc1** 3.27/26
[⌓52...Rc8 1.93/25 53.Bc5 Nf6 54.Rd6+ Kf5]



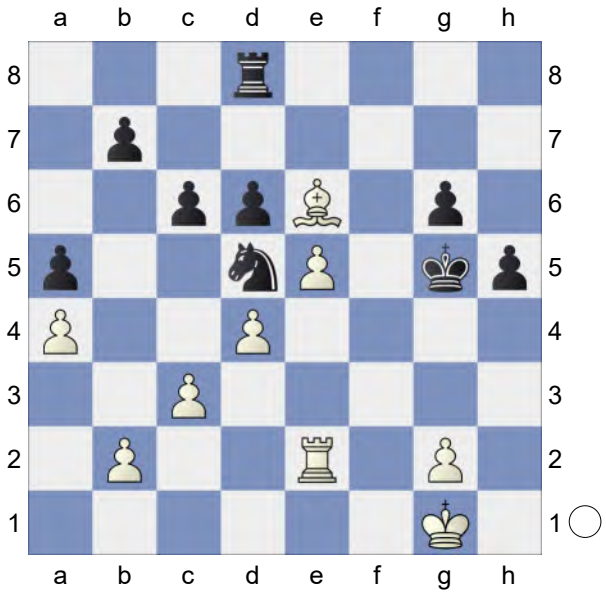
53.Bc5! Nf6 54.Rd6+ Kf5? 4.24/24
[54...Ke5 2.63/27 was called for. 55.h4 Rc2]
55.Kc6 Ng4 56.Rd2
[Less strong is 56.b5 Ne5+ 57.Kd5 Rb1+-]
56...Ke6 57.Rd6+? 0.01/24
[White should try 57.Re2++- 4.61/27 Ne5+ 58.Kb6]
57...Kf5= A mistake that costs the game.
58.b5 2.06/24
[⌓58.Rd5+ 4.07/25 Ke6 59.b5 Ne5+



60.Rxe5+! Kxe5 61.b6]
58...Ne5++- 59.Kd5 Nd3 60.Rc6 Nf4+ 61.Kd6 Rd1+ 62.Kc7 Nd5+ 63.Kc8 aiming for b6. **63...Rc1** 2.10/22
[⌓63...Rd2 1.70/25]
64.Kd7 Rc2 65.Bd6 Rxg2 66.Rc5 Ke4 67.Ke6 Rd2 68.h4 Nb6? 5.13/24
[68...Rd4 2.63/24 69.Rc6 Nf4+ 70.Kd7 Nd5]
69.Rc6 White is clearly winning.
69...Nd5 70.b6 Strongly threatening b7.
70...Nxb6 71.Rxb6 Kf3 72.Be7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.22 (precise)
1-0

C55
□ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
■ **Sarana,Alexey** **2677**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (5.7) 22.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.Nc3 d6 6.a4 Bg4N**
[6...0-0 7.0-0 *(7.h3 Be6 8.0-0 d5 9.Bb5 d4 10.Ne2 Na5 11.Bd2 c6 12.Qe1 cxb5 13.Bxa5 b6 14.Bb4 Bxb4 15.Qxb4 Qc7 16.Qxb5 Nd7 17.Ng5 Nc5 18.Nxe6 Nxe6 19.c3 a6 20.Qb3 Rfd8 21.Rfd1 h5* Morris,J (2425)-Solomon,S (2245) Melbourne 2024 1-0 (49)*; 7.a5 a6 8.h3 Be6 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Be3 Bf6 12.Ne2 Qe7 13.c3 Nd8 14.d4 Rc8 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.f4 Bf6 18.g4 g6 19.g5 Bg7 20.h4 d5 21.Ng3 dxe4* Jonsson,H-Aleksic,M Salou ESP 2018 CBM 85 ext [Lane, CCYB6]*)* 7...Be6 *(7...h6 8.h3 Be6 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.Ne2 a5 11.Ng3 Qe8 12.c3 Qf7 13.Be3 Kh8 14.Nh2 d5 15.Qe2 Rad8 16.Rad1 Qg6 17.Nf3 Nd7 18.Kh2 Rf7 19.Qc2 Rdf8 20.Qb3 d4 21.Bc1 Nc5 22.Qc2* 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 (2784)-Ferragut,A (2702) Uralsk 2021 OPN 78, A17 [Levy,D] 0-1 (42)*)* 8.Nd5 Bxd5 9.exd5 Nb4 10.d4 Nbxd5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Nxe5 c6 13.Re1 Qc7 14.g3 Rfe8 15.Nd3 Bd6 16.Rxe8+ Rxe8 17.Bd2 Ne4 18.Bxd5 cxd5 19.Be3 a5 20.c3 Qc4 21.Bd4 Marosi,G (2756)-Ferragut, A (2711) London 2022 OPN 78, A17 [Levy,D] ½-½ (62) Ng5 22.Qg4 h6 23.f4 Ne6 24.Re1 Re7 25.Be5 Bc5+ 26.Nxc5 Qxc5+ 27.Kg2 Qc6 28.Kg1 Qb6+ 29.Kf1 Qa6+ 30.Kg1 h5 31.Qe2 Qb6+ 32.Kf1 Nc5 33.Qxh5 Qa6+ 34.Qe2 Qe6 35.Qb5 Ne4 36.Kg2 Demianjuk,A (2323)-Frolyanov,D (2557) Khanty Mansiysk 2008 EXT 2010 [Breder,Dennis] 0-1 (62)]
7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 White has an edge. **8...Nd4 9.Qd1 c6 10.Ba2 Ne6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Qc7 13.Be3 a5 14.Qf3 Rad8 15.Rab1 Nd7 16.h4 Nd4 17.Bxd4 exd4 18.Ne2 Bxh4**
[18...Bf6!?]
19.Nxd4 Bf6 20.Nf5 g6 21.Qg3 Be5 22.f4 Bg7 23.Nxg7 Kxg7 24.d4 Nf6 25.c3 -0.01/22
[25.e5± 0.47/21 feels stronger. Nh5 26.Qh4]
25...h5 26.Re2 Ng4 27.Rbe1 Rfe8 28.f5 Qe7 29.Rf1 Qg5 30.f6+ Kh6 1.08/25
[30...Kg8= 0.16/22]
31.Bxf7± &Bianco is more active. **31...Rf8 32.Be6 Rxf6 33.Rxf6 Nxf6 34.Qxg5+ Kxg5=** Endgame KRB-KRN **35.e5 Nd5**



Threatens to win with ...Nf4. **36.g3** Against Nf4 **36...dxe5 37.Rxe5+ Kf6**

38.Bh3 Kf7 39.Bg2 b6 40.Bf3 Kf6 41.Kf2 Ne7 42.g4 hxg4! 43.Bxg4 Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
½-½

C67
□ **Erigaisi Arjun** **2801**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (6.1) 24.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C67: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence: 4 0-0 Nxe4 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bf1 Nxe5 8.Rxe5 0-0 9.d4 Bf6 10.Re1 Re8 11.Rxe8+ Nxe8 12.c3 d5 13.Bd3 g6 14.Nd2 c6 15.Nf3 Ng7 16.Bf4 Bf5 17.Bxf5 Nxf5 18.Qd2N**
[18.Qe2 Ng7 *(18...Qe8 19.Re1 Ng7 20.Be5 Bxe5 21.Nxe5 Qe6 22.Nd3 Re8 23.Qxe6 Rxe6 24.Rxe6 Nxe6* ½-½ (24) Macovei,A (2476)-Brodsky,D (2538) Charlotte 2024*)* 19.Re1 Qd7 20.Be5 Re8 21.Qd2 ½-½ (21) Fedorchuk,S (2620)-Bacrot, E (2678) Brest 2019 CBM 190 Extra [ChessBase II]]
18...Qf8 19.Re1 Re8 20.Rxe8 Qxe8 21.Qe1 Qxe1+ 22.Nxe1= Endgame KBN-KBN **22...Ng7** 0.32/23
[22...Be7= 0.01/25]
23.Kf1 Ne6 24.Be3 -0.23/23
[Better is 24.Bd6± 0.32/22]
24...h5 25.Ke2 The position is equal.
25...Kf8 26.Nd3 Ke7 27.Ne1 Bg7 28.Nd3 Bf6 29.Ne1 Bg7 30.Nd3 Bf6 Not much happened in this game. Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

D78
□ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (6.2) 24.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D78: Fianchetto Grünfeld: 6 0-0 c6 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 d5 5.Qb3 Bg7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Nf3 Qb6 8.0-0 Rd8 9.h3 Be6**
[9...Bf5 10.Bf4 dxc4 11.Qxc4 Nd5 12.Ng5 Qxd4 13.Qb3 Qb6 14.Nxd5 Qxb3 15.Nxe7+ Kf8 16.axb3 Kxe7 17.e4 Be6 18.Nxe6 Kxe6 19.Rfd1 Nd7 20.h4 Nc5 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.Bh3+ Ke7 23.Rxa7 Bxb2 24.b4 Giorgadze,T (2736)-C 06/30 (2781) Foros 2021 200 Traps In The Opening [Frutstaert,Roger] 1-0]
10.c5 Qxb3 11.axb3 Ne4N
[11...Na6 12.Bf4 *(12.Ra4 Ne4 13.Bf4 Naxc5 14.dxc5 Nxc5 15.Ra3 d4 16.Na4 Nxb3 17.Nd2 Nxd2 18.Bxd2 b6 19.b4 Bc4 20.Bxc6 Rac8 21.b5 Bxe2 22.Re1 Bc4 23.Nb2 Bd5 24.Rxa7 d3 25.Bxd5 Rxd5 26.Nc4 Bd4* Chapter D51-Games Game 5 (33)*)* 12...Nd7 13.g4 f6 14.g5 fxg5 15.Nxg5 Bf7 16.Nxf7 Kxf7 17.Bxd5+ cxd5 18.c6 Nb4 19.cxd7 Bxd4 Wedberg,T-Wegner,H Opening 200 Traps In The Opening [John Watson]]
[11...Nbd7 12.b4 a6 13.Ng5 Bf5 14.g4 Bc2 15.Be3 e5 16.Rfc1 Bb3 17.Nf3 exd4 18.Bxd4 Bc4 19.Nd2 Bb5 20.Nb3 Nf8 21.Nxb5 axb5 22.Rxa8 Rxa8 23.Na5 Ne6 24.Bc3 Ra7 25.e3 Nd7 26.Ra1 Kharlov,A (2504)-Khatoev,E (2338) Samara 2013 CBM 156 [Mueller,Karsten] 0-1 (99)]
12.Bf4 Nd7 13.g4 -0.12/20

[13.Ra4 0.28/19 should be considered.]

13...h6 14.Ra4 g5 15.Bc7 Rdc8 16.Bh2 f5 17.gxf5 Bxf5 18.Rfa1 a6 19.Rb4 Nxc3 20.bxc3 Ra7 21.Ra5 Be4 22.h4 g4 Inhibits Bh3. **23.Ne1** -0.01/21

[23.Ne5!± 0.32/22 Bxe5 24.Bxe5 *(24.dxe5 Bxg2 25.Rxg4+ Kh7=)*]

23...Bf5 24.Ra2 -0.24/21

[⌓24.Nd3 0.16/20]

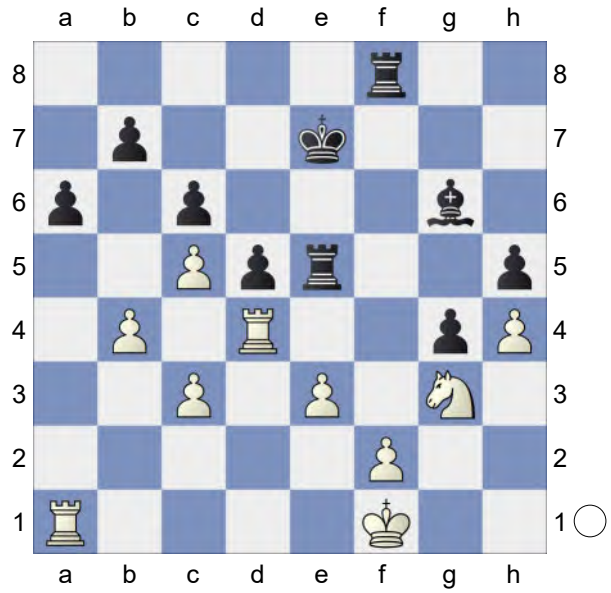
24...h5 25.Rba4 -0.43/22

[25.Nd3= -0.04/21]

25...e5∓ 26.e3 Re8 27.Bf1 Nf8 28.Ng2 Ng6 29.b4 Bd7 30.Bd3 Kf7 31.Bxg6+ Kxg6 32.Bxe5 Bxe5 33.dxe5 Rxe5 34.Rd2 Be8 35.Ra1 Bf7 36.Nf4+ Kf6 37.Rd4 Ra8 38.Ne2 Ke7 -0.01/23

[38...Kg6∓ -0.32/21]

39.Kf1 Bg6 40.Ng3 Rf8



Hoping for ...Rxe3. **41.Rf4 Rf6 42.Rd1 Kf7 43.Rdd4 Re8 44.Ne2 Be4 45.c4 Rxf4** 0.01/25

[45...Bf3± 0.32/24 might be stronger.]

46.Nxf4± Endgame KRB-KRN **46...Re5 47.Ke1 Kf6** 0.49/28

[47...Bf3= 0.18/27]

48.Kd2 -0.01/27

[48.cxd5± 0.49/28 Bxd5 49.Ke2]

48...Rf5= The position is equal. **49.Kc3 Ke5 50.cxd5 cxd5 51.Rd2 Bh1 52.Rd4 Be4 53.Rd1 Bf3 54.Rd4** Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) / Black=0.06 (flawless)

½-½

D31

□ **Sarana,Alexey** **2677**

■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2717**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (6.3) 24.01.25

[Kitty Kat]

D31: Queen's Gambit Declined: Semi-Slav without ...Nf6 (+ Marshall Gambit and Noteboom) and Exchange Variation lines without ...Nf6 A concrete idea of Anish Giri's helped Sahaj Grover to comfortably solve Black's problems. It would be interesting to see what Magnus Carlsen had in mind for such a case. A concrete idea of Anish Giri's helped Sahaj Grover to comfortably solve Black's problems. It would be interesting to see what Magnus Carlsen had in mind for such a case. Grover, Sahaj: 'It was the 7th round of Tata steel. The whole tournament didn't go so well for me, except for this game and probably another against Sadler. ' **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4 c6 6.Qc2 Nf6 7.h3 Qa5**

[7...g6 8.e3 Bf5 9.Qd2 Qb6 10.Nge2 Nbd7 11.Ng3 Be6 12.Bh6 Bf8 13.Bxf8 Kxf8 14.Bd3 Kg7 15.f4 Qc7 16.Qf2 h5 17.f5 h4 18.Nge2 gxf5 19.Bxf5 Bxf5 20.Qxf5 Rh5 21.Qf2 Rah8 22.0-0 Sudgen,J (2770)-Deslandes,P (2804) Florianopolis 2016 200 Traps In The Opening

[Haimovich,T] 1-0 (62)]

8.e3 White has an edge.

[8.Bd2 0-0 9.e3 Qd8 10.Bd3 b6 11.Nf3 c5 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.b3 Nc6 14.Na4 Nb4 15.Bxb4 cxb4 16.Nd4 Bd7 17.Bb5 Rc8 18.Qd3 Ne4 19.0-0 Nc3 20.Nxc3 Rxc3 21.Qe2 Bf6 22.Rad1 Qe7 Wojtaszek,R (2722)-Saric,A (2594) Gjakova 2016 CBM 173 [Baldauf,Marco] 1-0 (36)]

8...Ne4 9.Bd3N

[9.a3 Bf5 10.Bd3 Na6 11.Rc1 *(11.Ra2 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 0-0 14.Nf3 Nc7 15.0-0* 4) Queen's Gambit Declined 3.- Queen's Gambit Declined 3...B*)* 11...Nxc3 12.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 13.Rxc3 Bxd3 14.Rxd3 0-0-0 15.Nf3 Nc7 16.Ke2 Bd6 17.Bxd6 Rxd6 18.Ne5 Rf8 19.Rc3 Nb5 20.Rc2 Re6 21.Kf3 Nd6 22.Rhc1 f6 23.Nd3 Re7 6.Ne7 Qe7 7.f3_54700 (2645)-Helsloot,J (2532) Leverkusen 2012 200 Traps In The Opening [Aufstiegs-Runde] ½-½ (65) 24.a4 Kd7 25.a5 a6 26.b3 Ke8 27.h4 Kf7 28.g4 Kg8 29.Rg1 Ne4 30.Ke2 f5 31.g5 f4 32.Ne5 c5 33.f3 fxe3 34.fxe4 cxd4 35.Ng4 dxe4 36.Rc4 d3+ 37.Ke1 Rf3 38.Nf6+ Kf7 Turov,M (2645) - Grover,S (2532) Wijk aan Zee 2012 [R.Scherbakov] ½-½ (66)]

9...Na6 10.Qa4 Qb6 11.Qb3 Bf5 Threatening ...Nec5! **12.Bxe4 dxe4 13.Nge2 Nb4 14.0-0 0-0 15.Qd1 Bg6 16.Bg3 f5 17.Nf4 Bf7 18.a3 Na6 19.b4 Qd8 20.d5 Qc8** 0.49/21

[20...Nc7= -0.26/21]

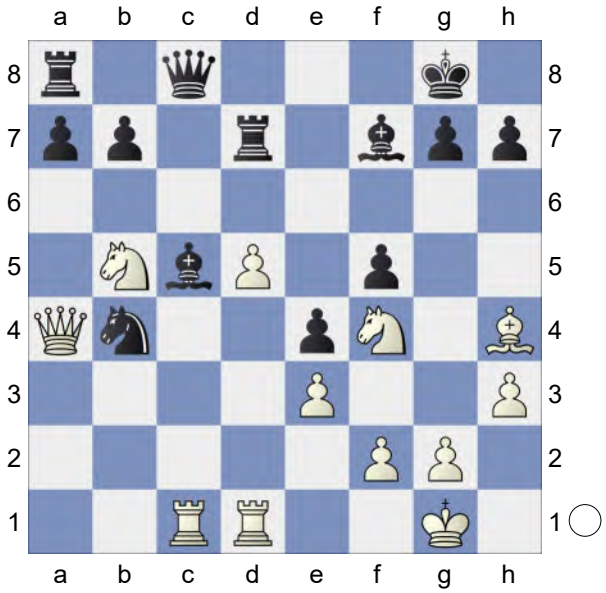
21.Rc1 Rd8! 22.Qa4 c5! 23.Rfd1 cxb4 24.Nb5

[Weaker is 24.Nxe4 Qd7 25.Qxd7 Rxd7∓]

24...Bc5? 1.98/24

[Better is 24...Nc5± 0.41/23 25.Qxb4 b6]

25.axb4+- Nxb4 26.Bh4 Rd7



27.Nxa7! 1.67/25 &Bianco is more active. **27...Qe8**

[27...b6 28.Nxc8]

28.Rxc5 Na6 2.95/23

[⌓28...b6 1.84/25 29.Rcc1 *(29.Qxb4 bxc5 30.Qxc5 Rdxa7=)* 29...Nd3]

29.Rcc1 Rxa7 30.d6 h6 31.Be7 b5 2.42/21

[31...Rxe7? 32.d7 Rxd7 33.Qxd7 Qxd7 34.Rxd7+-]

[31...b6± 1.57/24 32.Qb5 Nc5]

32.Qxb5 Rxe7 33.Qxe8+

(Diagram)

Deflection **33...Rxe8 34.d7 Nc7** Threatens to win with ...Rd8.

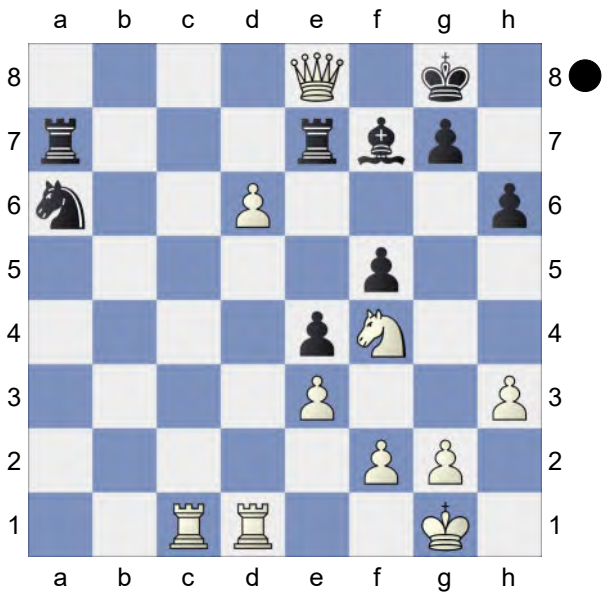
[34...Rd8? 35.Rc8 Raxd7 36.Rxd8+ Rxd8 37.Rxd8+ Kh7 38.Rf8+-]

35.d8Q Rxd8 36.Rxd8+ Ne8 37.h4 Kh7 38.Ne6 Kg6 39.Nf4+? 0.01/25

[39.Nd4+- 3.05/25]

39...Kf6? 3.01/24

[39...Kh7= 0.01/25 and Black is okay. 40.h5 Nf6]

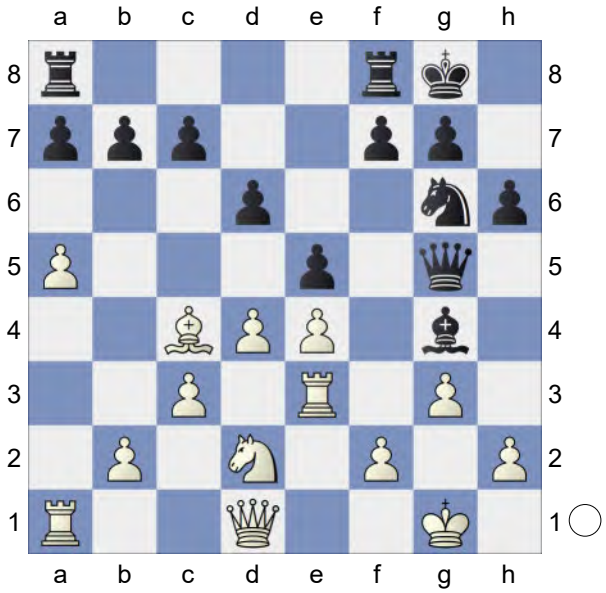


40.Rcc8 g5 41.hxg5+
[Not 41.Rxe8 Bxe8 42.Rxe8 gxf4±]
41...hxg5 42.Nd5+
[And not 42.Rxe8 Bxe8 43.Rxe8 gxf4=]
42...Bxd5 43.Rxd5 Ke6 44.Rcc5 Nd6 45.g4 Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.36
1-0

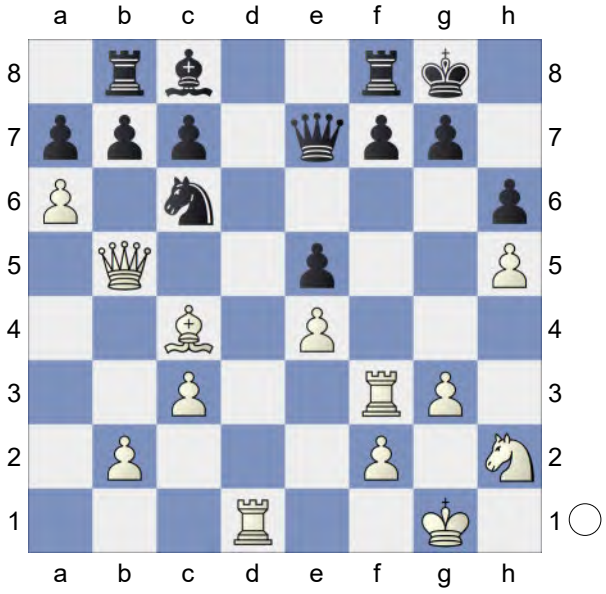
C50
□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek 2768**
■ **Gukesh D 2777**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (6.4) 24.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.a4 Nf6 5.d3 d6N**
[5...h6 6.a5 0-0 7.0-0 d6 8.h3 a6 9.c3 Be6 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.b4 Ba7 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.fxe3 b6 14.axb6 cxb6 15.Nbd2 b5 16.d4 a5 17.Qb3 Re8 18.bxa5 Rxa5 19.Rxa5 Qxa5 20.Rb1 Kozak,A (2607)-Safarli,E (2614) Bucharest 2024 Mega2024 Update 21 [Kitty Kat] 1-0]

6.a5 Bb4+ 7.Bd2! Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 0-0 9.0-0 Ne7 10.c3 Ng6 11.Re1 h6 12.d4 Nh7 13.Re3 Ng5 14.Nxg5 Qxg5 15.g3 Bg4

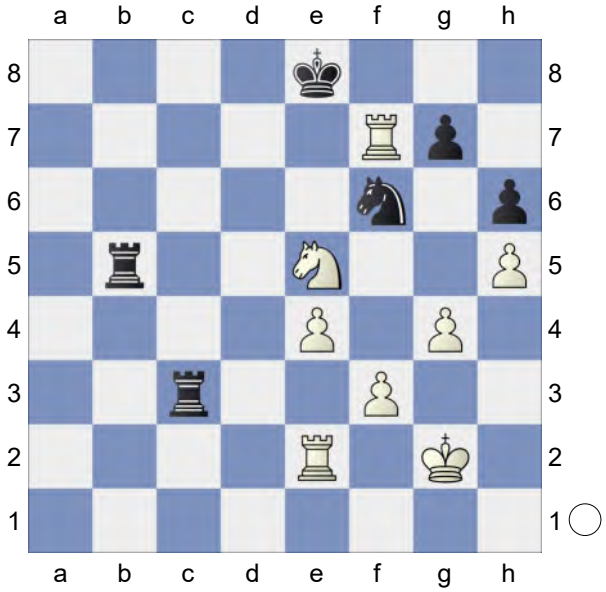


16.h4! Qh5
[16...Qxe3? 17.Qc2 *(17.Qc1 Qe2+-)* 17...Qxd2 18.Qxd2+-]
17.Qb3 Rab8! 18.Nf1 Ne7 19.Nh2 Bd7 20.Be2 Qg6 21.dxe5 dxe5 22.Rd1 Be6 23.Qb5 Nc6 24.a6 Bc8 25.h5 Qf6 26.Rf3 Qe6 27.Bc4 Qe7



28.Qa4 0.35/22 &Bianco is much more active. The black rooks are badly placed.

[28.Rfd3!± 0.94/22]
28...Nd8± 29.axb7 Bxb7 30.Re3 Bc6 31.Qa2 Nb7 32.b4!
[32.Qxa7? Ra8 33.Qxa8 Rxa8-+]
32...Nd6 33.Bd5 Bxd5 34.Rxd5 Qe6 Prevents Ng4. **35.Re2** 0.01/23
[35.Re1± 0.41/22]
35...c6 0.51/21
[Black should try 35...Rfc8!= 0.01/23]
36.Ra5 Qxa2 37.Raxa2 Rfc8 38.Ng4 c5 39.bxc5
[39.Rxa7 Nb5 40.Ra5 Nxc3∓]
39...Rxc5 40.Rxa7 Rxc3 41.Rd7
[41.Nxe5 Re8 42.Nd7 Rd3]
41...Ne8 42.Nxe5 Nf6 43.Re7
[43.Rxf7 Re8±]
43...Rb4 1.54/24
[⌓43...Rf8 1.17/23]
44.g4 Rc5 1.75/23
[44...Rb8± 1.37/22 keeps fighting. 45.f3 *(45.Rxf7 Re8=)* 45...Rf8]
45.f3+- Kf8 46.Rxf7+ Ke8 47.Nd3
[47.Rxg7 Rxe5 48.Rg6 Nxh5 49.gxh5 Rxh5]
47...Rb1+ 48.Kg2 Rc3 49.Ne5 Rb5



50.Rxg7! Rxe5 51.Ra2 Intending Ra8+ and mate.
[51.Rg6 Nxh5 52.gxh5 Rxh5]
51...Kf8 52.Rg6 Nxe4 2.21/24
[⌓52...Nxg4 1.68/25 53.Ra8+ *(53.fxg4 Rxe4 54.Rf2+ Ke7±; 53.Rxg4 Rxh5 54.Rg6 Kf7+-)* 53...Kf7]
53.Re2 Pin
[53.fxe4 Rxe4 54.Rf2+ *(54.Rxh6 Rxg4+ 55.Kh2 Rh4+ 56.Kg2 Rg4+ 57.Kf1 Rf3+ 58.Ke1 Re3+ 59.Re2 Kg7=)* 54...Ke7 55.Rg7+ *(55.Rxh6 Rxg4+ 56.Kf1 Rc1+ 57.Ke2 Rc2+ 58.Ke3 Rxf2=)* 55...Ke8±]
[53.Rxh6?! Ng5±]
53...Rg5 54.Rxh6
[Don't do 54.fxe4?! Rxg6 55.hxg6 Kg7±]
54...Nc5 55.Rc6 Hoping for h6. **55...Na4 56.Ra6 Nc5 57.Ra8+** White has strong compensation. **57...Kf7 58.Ra7+ Kf6 59.Re8** 0.44/23
[59.h6+- 1.77/21 White wants to mate with h7. Rg8 60.Rb2]
59...Ne6!± 60.h6
[60.Kg3!? Re5 61.Rg8±]
60...Re5 ...Nf4+ is the strong threat. The position is equal. **61.Ra6 Rc2+ 62.Kf1⇄** White is fighting back **62...Rc1+ 63.Kf2! Rc2+ 64.Kf1** Strongly threatening h7. **64...Rc1+ 65.Kf2!** And now h7 would win. **65...Rc2+ 66.Kf1** Black escapes into a draw. Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

C83

□ **Praggnanandhaa R** 2741
■ **Wei,Yi** 2751
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (6.5) 24.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.h3 Qd7 12.Be3N**
[12.Bc2 Rad8 13.Nbd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Bf5 15.Bxf5 Qxf5 16.Qf4 Qxf4 17.Bxf4 d4 18.Rac1 dxc3 19.Rxc3 Nb4 20.Rxc7 Rfe8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.Nxg5 f6 23.Nf7 Rd2 24.e6 h5 25.Re4 Nxa2 26.Rc6 Rd5 Carlsen,M (2830)-Caruana,F (2794) Toronto 2023 1-0 (36)]
[12.Nbd2 Nc5 13.Bc2 d4 14.cxd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Qxd4 16.Qh5 g6 17.Qe2 Rad8 18.Nf3 Qc4 Chapter11 Re1-A 11.h3 The Open Spanish [Mikhalevski Viktor]]
12...Na5 13.Nbd2 Nxb3
[13...Nxd2 with more complications. 14.Qxd2 Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.b3 Rab8]
14.axb3 c5 Against b4 **15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Qxd7 Bxd7 17.Nd2 Bc6 18.Bf4 f5 19.exf6! Rxf6 20.Bg5 Re6 21.Bxe7 Rxe7 22.b4 cxb4 23.cxb4 Bd5 24.Nf1 Kf7 25.Ne3**
[25.Red1 keeps more tension. Ke6 26.Ng3 Rc7 27.b3]
25...Be6 26.Red1 Rd7 Against Rd4 **27.Rxd7+ Bxd7=** Endgame KRB-KRN **28.Rd1 Ke6** The position is equal. **29.Kh2 Rf8 30.Kg3 Bc6 31.Rc1 Kd6 32.Rc5 Bd7** Against Nf5+ **33.Rg5 Rf7 34.Rd5+ Ke6 35.Rd1 Ke5 36.Rc1 Rf6 37.Rc5+ Kd6 38.Rd5+ Ke6! 39.Rd4 Bc6 40.Rd8 Rg6+ 41.Kh2 Rf6 42.Kg1 Rf7 43.Rc8 Bb7 44.Rb8 Kd6 45.h4 g6 46.Rg8 Ke7 47.g4 Bc6 48.Kg2 Kd6 49.Rc8 Kd7 50.Rh8 Kc7 51.Kg1 Kd7 52.Kf1 Kc7 53.Rg8 Kd7 54.Ke2 Kc7 55.h5 gxh5 56.gxh5 Kd6 57.h6 Ke5 58.Rg5+** Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

C66

□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** 2695
■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** 2680
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (6.6) 24.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C66: Ruy Lopez: Steinitz Defence **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 d6 5.0-0 a6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.Re1 c5** Inhibits d4.
[7...a5 8.d4 Nd7 9.b3 a4 10.Bb2 f6 11.Nc3 a3 12.Bc1 c5 13.d5 g6 14.Nb1 Bg7 15.Nxa3 0-0 16.Nb5 h6 17.Nh4 Ba6 18.c4 Bxb5 19.cxb5 Kh7 20.Qg4 Qe8 21.Nxg6 Qxg6 22.Qxd7 13.Qc2 Ne5 14. Be5_21361 (2578)-Lazarevic,M (2625) New York 2023 Inf 94 [John Watson] 0-1 (37)]
8.c3 Bb7 9.Qc2N
[9.d4 Nxe4 10.dxe5 d5 11.e6 fxe6 12.Ne5 Nf6 13.Qa4+ c6 14.c4 27. Ruy Lopez Anti-Berlin (4.-Anti-Berlin 4.d3 d6 5.O-O a6]
9...Be7 10.d4
[Don't play 10.Qb3 Rb8=]
10...cxd4 11.cxd4 d5 12.Qb3
[12.Nxe5 0-0=]
12...Rb8 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxd7+ Nxd7 15.exd5! e4 16.Rxe4 Nf6 17.Re2 Nxd5 18.Nc3 f6 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Bf4 Kd7 21.Bxc7 Rb5 0.99/23

[21...Rbe8± 0.63/24 deserves consideration.]

22.Bf4 g5 23.Be3 0.48/21

[23.Bg3± 0.93/22]

23...a5± 24.Ne1 a4 Prevents b3.

25.Nd3 Rhb8 0.74/21

[25...Bc4± 0.36/23 26.Rd1 Rhb8]

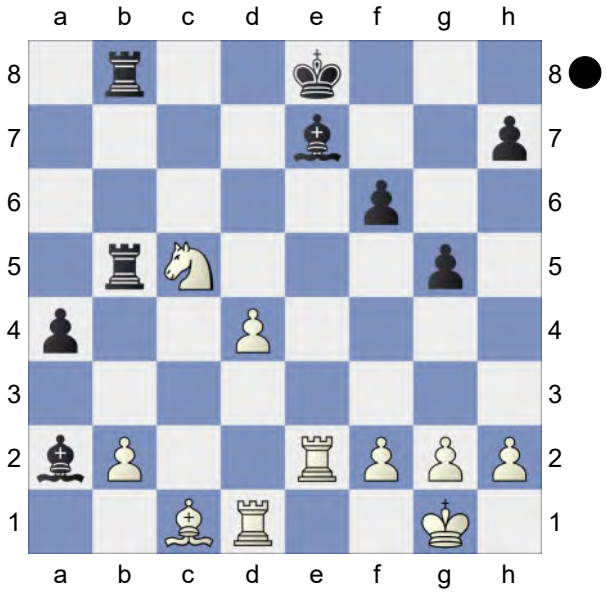
26.Rd1 0.30/23

[Better is 26.Rd2± 0.74/21]

26...Bxa2= This bishop pair is nice.

27.Nc5+ Ke8 28.Bc1

[Much weaker is 28.Nxa4 Bb3 29.Rde1 *(29.Ra1? Ra8∓)* 29...Bxa4 30.Bxg5 Rxg5∓]



Threatens to win with b3! **28...Bc4** Against b3 **29.Re3** Hoping for Rde1.

29...Kf7 30.Nxa4 Ra5 31.Nc3

[31.Nc5!?]

31...Ra1 32.Bd2 Ra7 33.Bc1 -0.01/20

[⌓33.h4 0.30/21]

33...Ra1 34.Rde1 Bd8 0.71/22

[34...Bd6= 0.26/21 should be considered.]

35.h3 0.35/24

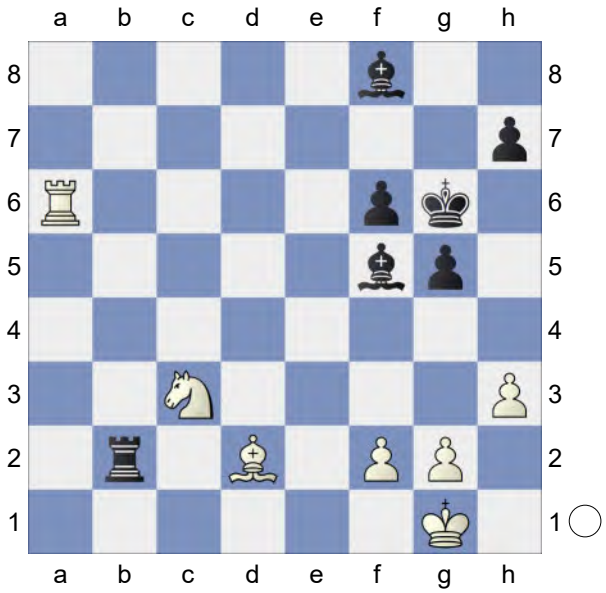
[35.d5± 0.71/22]

35...Kg6± 36.d5 Ba5 37.d6 Rd8 38.Re4 Bf7 39.Rd4 Bb6 40.Rd2 Bc5 41.d7 Ra7 42.Rde2

[42.h4 looks sharper. h6 43.g4 Raxd7 44.Rxd7 Rxd7 45.h5+]

42...Raxd7 43.Be3 Bf8 Black has compensation. **44.Ra1 Rb7 45.Rc2 Be6 46.Ra6 Bf5 47.Rd2 Rxd2 48.Bxd2 Kf7** The position is equal.

[Much less strong is 48...Rxb2



49.Nd5! Rb1+ 50.Kh2±]

49.Be3 Rxb2 50.Bd4 Be6 51.Ra7+ Kg6 52.Ra6 Kf7 53.Ra7+ Kg6 54.Ra6 Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

½-½

D35

□ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**

■ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (6.7) 24.01.25

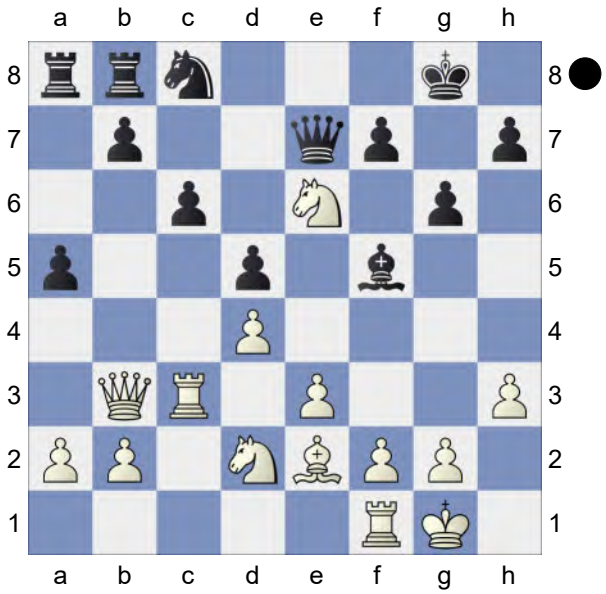
[Kitty Kat]

D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation **1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.h3 Nf8**

[8...Ne4 keeps more tension. 9.Bf4 Ndf6 10.Nge2 0-0]

9.Nf3 Ne6 10.Bh4! White is slightly better. **10...g6 11.0-0**
[11.Bg3 Ng7 12.Be5 0-0 13.g4 Bd6 14.Qd2 Bxe5 15.Nxe5 Nd7 16.Nxd7 Bxd7 17.0-0-0 Qh4 18.f4 Rae8 19.Rdf1 Qe7 20.Re1 f5 21.g5 Qd6 22.Bc2 Be6 23.h4 Bf7 24.Kb1 Re7 25.Bd1 Rfe8 Sarana,A (2693)-Bernadskiy,V (2524) Chess.com INT 2023 1-0 (52)]
11...0-0 12.Rb1
[12.Ne5 Ng7 13.f3 Bf5 14.Be2 Nd7 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.Bf2 Bb4 17.Qb3 Qe7 18.Rfe1 a5 19.a3 Bxc3 20.bxc3 a4 21.Qb6 Rfe8 22.c4 Ra6 23.Qb2 dxc4 24.Bxc4 b5 25.Bf1 Be6 26.e4 Qb7 Ambartsumova,K (2402)-Vega Gutierrez, B (2168) Melilla 2024 1-0 (41)]
12...a5 13.Rc1N
[13.a3 Ng7 14.b4 Nf5 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Qc2 Be7 17.Na4 Bd6 18.Rfc1 axb4 19.axb4 b5 20.Nc5 Nh4 21.Qe2 Kg7 22.Ne5 Bxe5 23.dxe5 Qe7 24.g3 Nf5 25.e4 dxe4 26.Qxe4 Ra2 27.Ra1 Rb2 Priyanka,N (2283)-Banh,G (2391) Abu Dhabi 2023 ½-½ (49) 28.Qe1 Nd4 29.Kg2 Nb3 30.Qc3 Nxc1 31.Qxb2 Nxd3 32.Nxd3 Be6 33.Qc3 Bc4 34.Nc5 Kg8 35.Kh2 Bd5 36.Qe3 Re8 37.Re1 Ra8 38.h4 Ra2 39.Kg1 Qe8 40.Rd1 Qc8 41.Ne4 Bxe4 42.Qxe4 Qf5 Ramaswamy,A (2283)-Carlstedt,J (2391) 4.e3 f5 5.g4 2023 The Week in Chess 509 [John Watson] ½-½ (49)]
13...Ng7 14.Qb3 Ra7 15.Na4 Bf5 16.Be2 Ne4 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Qb6 Raa8 19.Nc5 Nd6 20.Rc3 Rfb8 21.Nd2 Nc8 22.Qb3 Ne6 23.Nxe6

(Diagram)



And now Nc5 would win. **23...Bxe6 24.Rc5 Qd8 25.a4 Nd6 26.Ra1 Ra7 27.Rcc1 h5 28.Qc3 Rba8 29.Qc5 Kh7 30.Bd3 Bf5** The position is equal. **31.Bxf5 Nxf5 32.Ra3 Nh4 33.Rd1 Nf5** Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

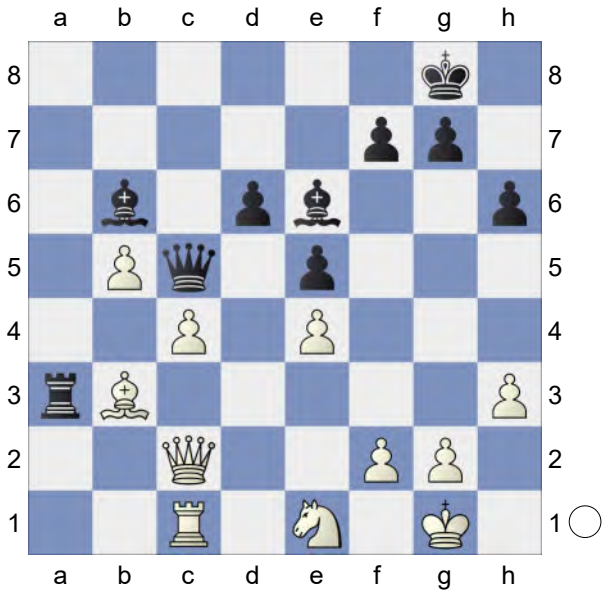
C77
□ **Wei,Yi** **2751**
■ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (7.1) 25.01.25
[kitty Kat]

C77: Ruy Lopez: 3...a6 4 Ba4 Nf6, unusual lines **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.d3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.0-0**
[9.Be3 Na5 10.Ba2 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Ne2 c5 13.Ng3 Nc6 14.0-0 Qd7 15.a4 d5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Rxa8 18.exd5 exd5 19.Re1 Rf8 20.Bd2 Bd6 21.c4 bxc4 22.dxc4 dxc4 23.Qa4 Nd4 Bartel,M (2653)-Gledura,B (2557) Katowice 2016 CBM 172 Extra [ChessBase] 0-1 (35)]

9...h6 10.Be3N
[10.h3 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Bd2 Qe8 13.Kh2 Nh5 14.Ng1 g5 15.a4 b4 16.Nce2 Qg6 17.Rc1 Rab8 18.c3 b3 19.c4 Nf6 20.Rc3 Na5 21.Nc1 c5 22.Nxb3 Nc6 23.Bc1 g4 24.Na1 Rf7 Bogilov (2365)-Schmoyer, C (2485) USSR (ch) 33/713 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (37) 25.g3 gxh3 26.Nxh3 Nd4 27.Nc2 Ng4+ 28.Kg2 Nf3 29.Ne3 h5 30.Rc2 Rbf8 31.Rh1 Nd4 32.Rd2 Nxe3+ 33.fxe3 Rg7 34.Rh2 Nf3 35.Kh1 Nxh2 36.Rxh2 Qxg3 37.Bd2 Rf3 1-0 (37) Aizenberg,B (2367)-Sahin,O (2177) Vrnjacka Banja 2023]
10...Be6 11.Nd5 Qd7 White is slightly better. **12.Rc1 Bd8 13.c4** -0.33/22
[13.Re1= 0.26/19]
13...Na5∓ 14.Ba2 bxc4 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.dxc4 c5 17.b4 cxb4 18.axb4 Nc6 19.Rb1 Rfc8! 20.Qa4 Qb7 21.Rfd1 Be7 22.h3 Rcb8 0.23/24
[⌓22...a5 -0.29/23 23.b5 Nb4]
23.Bd2 Rc8 24.Be3 Rcb8 25.Bd2 Rc8 26.Qc2 Qc7 27.Rdc1 a5 28.b5 Nb4 29.Bxb4 axb4 30.Rxb4 Qc5 0.64/19
[Black should play 30...Qb7= 0.11/22]
31.Ra4 0.20/24
[31.Rb2± 0.64/19 deserves consideration.]
31...Bd8 32.Rxa8 Rxa8 The position is equal. **33.Bb3 Bb6 34.Rb1 Rc8 35.Rc1 Ra8 36.Ne1 Ra3**

(Diagram)

Threatens to win with ...Rxb3! **37.Rb1 Qd4 38.Nf3 Qc5 39.Ne1 Qd4 40.Nf3 Qc5** Weighted Error Value: White=0.09

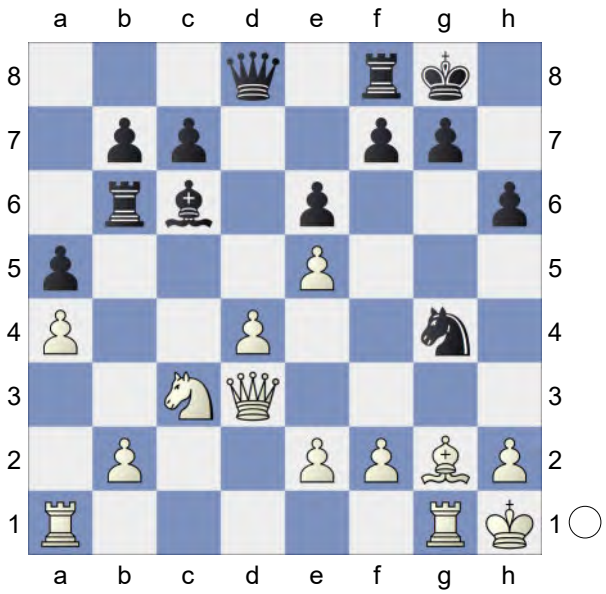


(flawless) /Black=0.10 (very precise)
½-½

E05
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
■ **Sarana,Alexey** **2677**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (7.2) 25.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

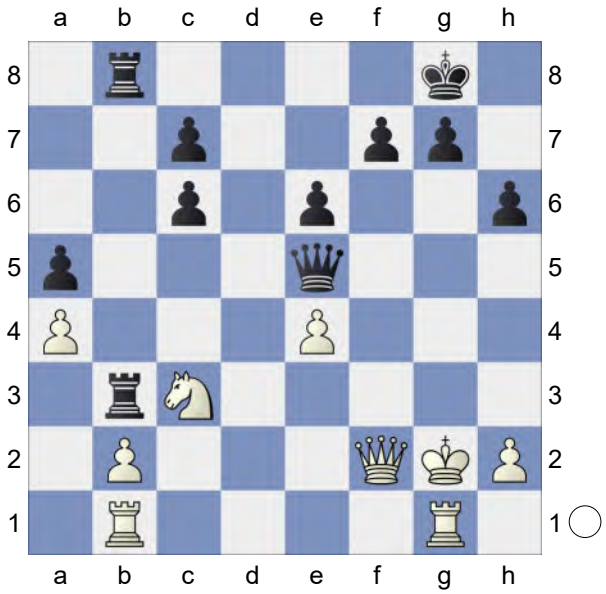
E05: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3 Be7 August 22. The first game of the battle for 3rd and 4th places. 23rd day of the tournament for me and 20th for my opponent. Both of us were low on energy; I was a bit disappointed for losing the semis, yet motivated to face World number 2 - Fabiano Caruana. 22. August. Die erste Partie im Kampf um die Plätze 3 und 4. 23. Tag des Turniers für mich und 20. für meinen Gegner. Wir hatten beide wenig Energie; ich war ein wenig enttäuscht, weil ich das Halbfinale verloren hatte, aber motiviert, gegen die Nummer 2 der Welt - Fabiano Caruana - anzutreten. **1.c4 e6 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7 9.Qxc4 Bc6**

10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.Nc3 h6 12.Bf4 Bd6 13.Qd3
[13.Bd2 Qe7 14.Rfe1 Ne4 15.Qd3 Nxd2 16.Qxd2 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 c6 So,W (2741)-Nakamura,H (2829) lichess.org (Int.-m/2-rapid) 145/(163) 2020 Chess Informant 145 [Petronijevic,Zoran]]
13...Bxf4 14.gxf4 The position is equal.
14...a5 15.Kh1 Ra6N
[15...Bxf3 16.Bxf3 c6 17.Rg1 Kh8 18.e4 Qe7 19.Rg3 Rad8 20.Rag1 Rg8 21.e5 Nh7 22.Qe3 Nb6 23.Be4 Qb4 24.Bxh7 Kxh7 25.Ne4 Qe7 26.f5 1-0 (26) Abasov,N (2632)-Caruana,F (2782) Baku 2023 CBM 216 [Abasov,Nijat]]
16.Rg1 Rb6 17.Ne5 Nxe5 18.fxe5 Ng4



19.Qg3 Qxd4 20.Bxc6 Nxf2+ 21.Kg2 Bf3 is the strong threat. **21...bxc6 22.Qxf2 Qxe5 23.e4 Rfb8**
[23...Qh5 24.Kh1±]
24.Rab1 Rb3!
[Much less strong is 24...Qh5 25.Kh1±]

(Diagram)

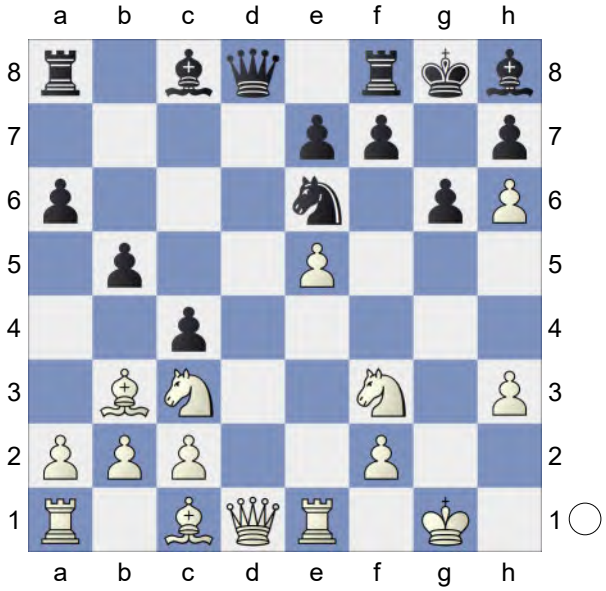


Strongly threatening ...Rxc3. **25.Qc2 c5 26.Kh1 R3b4** 0.71/22
[26...R8b6± 0.36/25]
27.Rg3 c6 28.Qg2 Threatens to win with Rg1. **28...Kh8 29.Rf3 Kg8 30.Rf2! R8b7 31.Rg1 Kh7 32.Re1** -0.01/26
[White should try 32.Rc2± 0.79/23]
32...Qg5= 33.Ree2 Qe5 0.77/23
[33...Qxg2+= 0.01/25 keeps the balance. 34.Rxg2 f6]
34.Re3 Qg5 35.Rg3 Qe5 36.Rgf3 Kg8 37.Rd2 Rd4 38.Re2 Rbd7 39.Ref2 Rd3 40.Rxd3 Rxd3 41.Qf1 Rd7 0.53/24
[41...Qd4= 0.18/25]
42.Qe2
[42.Qa6!? Qg5 43.Qc8+ *(43.Qxc6 Qc1+ 44.Kg2 Qg5+ 45.Kh1 Qc1+ 46.Kg2 Qg5+ 47.Kh1=)* 43...Rd8 44.Qc7± *(44.Qxc6 Qc1+ 45.Kg2 Qg5+ 46.Kh1 Qc1+ 47.Kg2 Qg5+ 48.Kh1=)*]
42...Rd4 43.Qf3 Rd7 44.Kg2 f6 45.Qg3 Qxg3+ 46.hxg3± Endgame KRN-KR **46...e5! 47.Rc2 Rd4! 48.Kf3 Kf7 49.Rc1** 0.26/23
[49.Ne2± 0.63/26 should be considered. Rxa4 50.Rxc5]

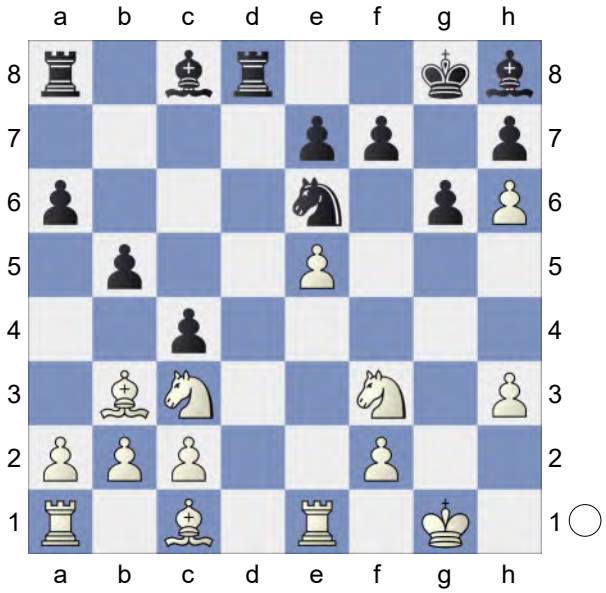
49...h5 50.Nd1 Rxa4 0.75/26
[50...g5± 0.40/25 is superior.]
51.Ne3 0.37/26
[51.Rxc5± 0.75/26 g5 52.Rxc6]
51...Rb4 White is slightly better. **52.Rxc5 Rxb2 53.Rxa5 Rb7** Against Ra7 **54.Ra8 Rc7 55.Rh8** &Bianco is more active. **55...Kg6 56.Nc4 c5 57.Rd8 Kg5 58.Rd1 Rb7 59.Rc1 g6 60.Ne3 Rb5 61.Nc4** 0.01/30 Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) / Black=0.09 (flawless)
[61.Rc3± 0.45/23 feels stronger.]
½-½

B30
□ **Van Foreest,Jorden 2680**
■ **Praggnanandhaa R 2741**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (7.3) 25.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines without ...g6 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 g6 5.e5**
[5.Bxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Nd5 7.Ne4 Bg7 8.0-0 d6 9.c4 f5 10.Nxc5 dxc5 11.cxd5 Qxd5 12.b3 0-0 13.Ba3 Bxe5 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15.Re1 Qf6 16.Qc2 f4 17.Qxc5 f3 18.Qc4+ Rf7 19.Bxe7 Qf5 Aschenberg,A (2692)-Ilie,V (2636) USSR 42/15 2014 The Dynamic Réti [S&V #259; Alekhine Mem book] 0-1]
5...Nh5 6.0-0 Bg7 7.Re1 Nd4N
[7...Nf4 8.d3 Ne6 9.Bxc6 dxc6 10.a4 a5 11.Bd2 0-0 12.Ne4 b6 13.Qc1 Re8 14.Bh6 Bh8 15.Neg5 f6 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.Qf4 Qd7 18.Re3 b5 19.Rae1 Rad8 20.h4 Bd5 21.h5 Bg7 22.hxg6 Lomasov,S (2559)-Risteski,E (2378) New York 2024 1-0]
8.d3 White is slightly better. **8...0-0 9.g4 d5 10.h3**
[Don't blunder 10.gxh5? Bg4 11.Re3 Bxh5-+]
10...a6 11.Ba4 Hoping for Nxd4.
11...Ne6 ...Nhf4 is the strong threat.
12.gxh5 Black must now prevent h6.
12...b5! 13.Bb3 c4 14.h6 Bh8 15.dxc4 dxc4



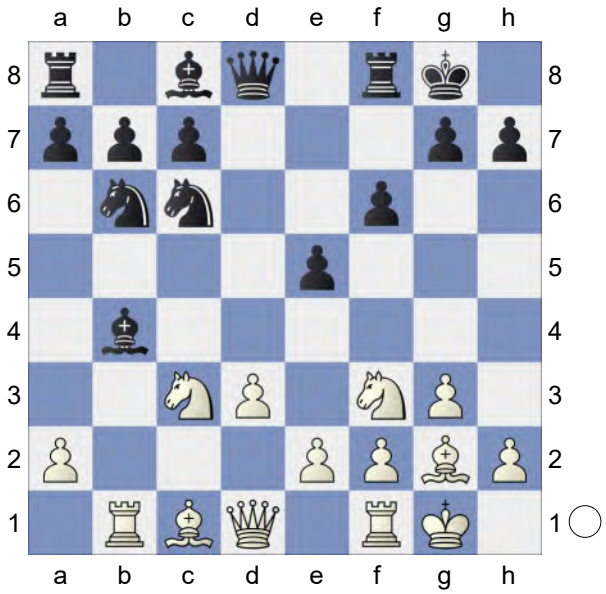
16.Qxd8 -0.01/23
[16.Bxc4!± 0.40/23 bxc4 17.Qxd8 Rxd8 18.Be3]
16...Rxd8=



17.Bxc4! bxc4 18.Be3 Bb7 19.Ng5 With the idea Nxe6. **19...Bxe5 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Bg5! Bxc3 22.bxc3 Kf7 23.Rab1 Bd5 24.Rb6 Rdb8 25.Reb1 Rxb6 26.Rxb6** Endgame KRB-KRB **26...Ke8 27.Kf1 Kd7 28.Ke2 Kc7 29.Rb2 Kc8** 0.59/24
[Black should play 29...Rf8= -0.01/23]
30.Ke3 Rb8 1.01/27
[30...Kd7± 0.39/23]
31.Rxb8+± Kxb8 32.Kd4 Kc7 33.Bxe7 Kc6 34.h4 Bg2 1.68/28
[34...Kd7± 1.28/29]
35.a3 1.13/28
[But not 35.Kxc4?! Bd5+ 36.Kd4 Bxa2±]
[35.Ke5+- 1.68/28]
35...Bf1 1.72/28
[35...Kd7± 1.13/28]
36.Bb4 Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.13 (very precise)
½-½

A29
☐ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2768**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (7.4) 25.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

A29: English Opening: Four Knights Variation with 4 g3 Kasparov,G: 'Inf 80/(21)' **1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.0-0 Nb6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Rb1 0-0 9.b4 f6**
[Don't do 9...Bxb4 10.Nxe5! Nxe5 11.Rxb4±]
[9...Nxb4 10.Nxe5 c6 11.a3 N4d5 12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.a4 Bf6 14.d4 Bf5 15.Rb5 a6 16.Rb2 Rc8 17.Bf4 Bxe5 18.Bxe5 Re8 19.e3 Re7 20.g4 Be4 21.f3 Nc4 22.Re2 Bg6 23.h4 f6 24.Bf4 Kasparov,G (2849)-Timman,J (2629) Wijk aan Zee 2001 CBM 081 [Ribli, Zoltan] 1-0 (47)]
[9...e4 10.Nxe4 Bf5 11.Qc2 Bxb4 12.a3 Bd6 13.e3 h6 14.Nh4 Bh7 15.f4 Be7 16.f5 Ne5 17.Bb2 f6 18.a4 Nec4 19.Bd4 a5 20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.Bxc5 Rf7 22.Bxb6 Nxb6 23.Bxb7 Rb8 24.Bc6 Osnos,V (2816)-Bd7 (2556) BCF C&DCCC 2015 200 Traps In The Opening [Rechel,B] 1-0 (35)]
10.d3N
[10.b5 Nd4 11.a4
A) 11...a5 12.e3 Nxf3+ 13.Bxf3 Bf5 *(13...Rb8 14.Qb3+ Kh8 15.d4 exd4 16.Rd1 d3 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.Bxd5 Qe8 19.Qxd3* 27 1 c4 e5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 d5-1 c4 e5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 d5*)* 14.Qb3+ Kh8 15.Bxb7 Bxb1 16.Qxb1 Rb8 17.Be4 g6 18.Bb2 Bb4 19.Rd1 40 1 c4 e5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 d5-1 c4 e5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 d5;
B) 11...Kh8 12.a5 Nxf3+ 13.Bxf3 Nd7 25 1 c4 e5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 d5-1 c4 e5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 d5]
10...Be6
[Don't play 10...Bxb4



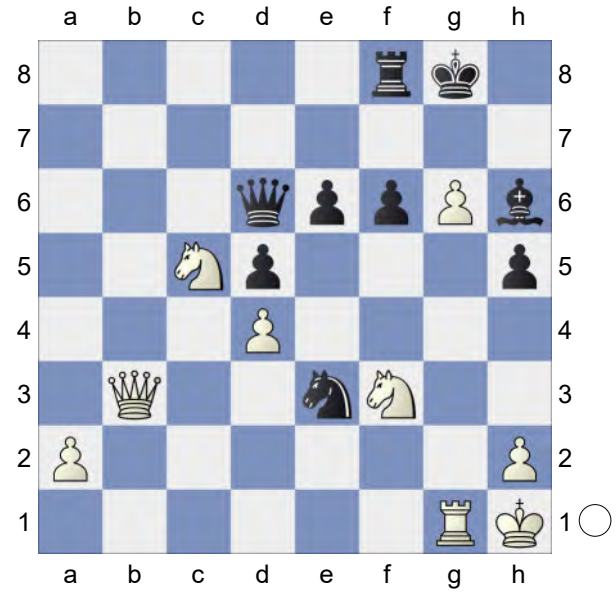
11.Rxb4! *(11.Qb3+ Kh8∓)* 11...Nxb4

12.Qb3+ N4d5 13.e4±]
11.b5 Nd4 12.Nd2 c6 13.bxc6 Nxc6 14.Nc4 Nxc4
[14...Bc5 is more complex. 15.Ne4 Bb4 16.a3 Be7]
15.dxc4 Qxd1 16.Rxd1 Rab8 17.Nd5 Kf7 0.40/21
[17...Bc5= -0.01/22]
18.Be3 0.01/21
[18.Nxe7± 0.40/21 Nxe7 19.Rxb7 Rxb7 20.Bxb7]
18...Rfd8 19.f4 exf4 20.gxf4 Bf5 21.Rb5 a6 22.Rb6 Na5 23.Rc1 Bf8 24.Bf2 Re8 Inhibits e4. **25.Bf3** -0.01/23
[25.Nc3!± 0.46/23]
25...Rbc8 26.c5 Kg8 27.Kg2 Be4! The position is equal. **28.h4 h5 29.Kg3 f5 30.Nb4 Bxf3 31.Kxf3** Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) / Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

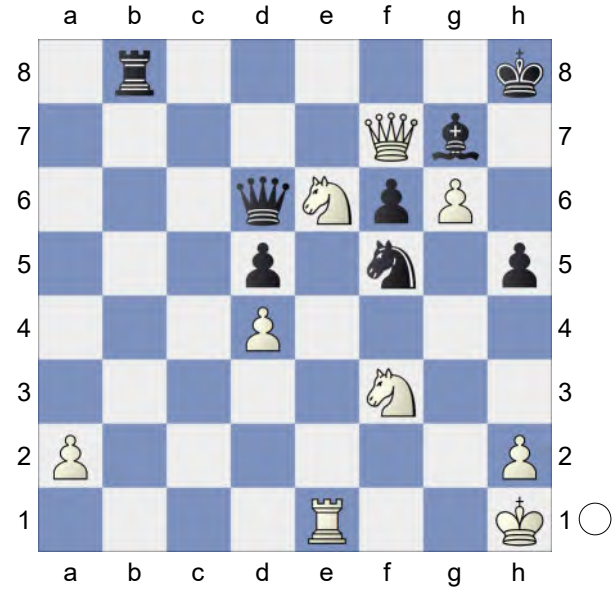
C02
□ **Gukesh D** **2777**
■ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2695**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (7.5) 25.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C02: French: Advance Variation **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 Nge7 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Nc3 a6 10.Kh1**
[10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Qd2 0-0 *(12...Rc8 13.Rae1 0-0 14.Bd1 Qb4 15.a3 Qb6 16.Ba4 Rfd8 17.Bxc6 Bxc6 18.Rb1 Be8 19.Rfd1 Rc4 20.h4 Rdc8 21.g4 Nh6 22.Qf4 Qc7 23.Ne2 f6 24.exf6 Qxf4 25.Nxf4 Nxg4 26.fxg7 Rc2 27.Ne1* Annaberdiev,M (2431)-Pelletier,Y (2526) Budapest 2024 0-1 (52)*)* 13.Rae1 Qd8 14.Bd1 f6 15.Ba4 b5 16.Bc2 fxe5 17.dxe5 Kh8 18.Ne2 Nh4 19.Nxh4 Qxh4 20.f4 Rac8 21.Bb1 Qh6 22.Qe3 Qh4 23.Rc1 Qe7 24.Qh3 h6 Carlsen,M (2839) - Haria,R (2522) Durres 2023 1-0 (32)]
10...Rc8 11.Rb1N
[11.a3 h6 12.Be3 Na5 13.Bd3 Ne7 14.Rc1 Nc4 15.Rc2 b5 16.Bc1 Nc6 17.Ne2 Qb6 18.Nf4 a5 19.Be3 a4 20.Nh5 Kd8 21.Nd2 Ne7 22.Qf3 Be8 23.Rfc1 Qa5 24.b4 axb3 25.Nxb3 Qxa3 Bacrot,E (2667)-Ivanchuk,V (2655) Chartres FRA 2023 [John Watson] 0-1 (33)]
11...Qb6 The position is equal. **12.g4 Nfe7**
[12...Nfxd4? 13.Be3+-]
13.Be3 h5 14.g5 Nf5 15.g6 f6 0.83/21
[15...fxg6± 0.42/21 16.Rg1 Nce7]
16.exf6± gxf6 17.Bd3 Bxf5 is the strong threat. **17...Nce7 18.Rg1 Bg7 19.Na4 Qd6 20.b4 b6** Prevents Nc5. **21.b5**
[21.Bxa6 keeps more tension. Ra8 22.b5 Nxe3 23.fxe3 e5 24.Qb3]
21...axb5
[21...a5 looks sharper. 22.Rc1 Rxc1 23.Bxc1 h4]
22.Bxb5 Bxb5 23.Rxb5 Nxe3 0.60/22
[23...Rc6= 0.08/22]
24.fxe3± Rc6 25.Qb3 0-0 26.Nxb6
[26.Rxb6 Rxb6 27.Qxb6 *(27.Nxb6 Rb8=)* 27...Qxb6 28.Nxb6 Re8=]
26...Bh6 27.Na4 0.01/23 &Bianco is more active.
[White should play 27.Re1± 0.90/22]
27...Nf5= 28.Rc5 Threatens to win with Qb7. **28...Rxc5** 1.05/24
[⌓28...Rfc8 0.73/22]
29.Nxc5→ White is out for blood. Pair of Knights!
[29.dxc5?! Qb8=]
29...Nxe3? 5.91/24

[29...Rb8± 0.85/24 stays breathing. 30.Qa4 *(30.Nb7? Qc7-+)* 30...Qe7]



A mistake that costs the game. **30.Qb7!+- Bg7 31.Re1 Nf5 32.Nxe6 Rb8 33.Qf7+ Kh8**



34.Nxg7 4.38/27
[⌓34.Re5!! 10.72/28 Qe7 35.Rxf5 Qxf7 36.gxf7]
34...Nxg7 35.Re7 Rg8 36.Rd7 Qb6 37.Rxd5
[37.Rb7 Qa6 38.Ng1 Qd6+-]
37...Qb1+ 38.Kg2 White wants to mate with R x h 5 + ! **38...f5 39.Rc5** Against Qc2+ **39...Qb2+ 40.Kf1 Qa1+ 41.Kf2**
[Don't do 41.Kg2 Qb2+ 42.Kg3 Qb8+ 43.Rc7 h4+ 44.Kxh4 Qb2]
41...Qb2+ 42.Kg3 Hoping for Qf6.
42...h4+? 6.39/24
[42...Qb6 3.86/24 43.Rc7 Qa6]
43.Kf4 White is clearly winning.
[43.Nxh4 Qe2 44.Nxf5 Nxf5+ 45.Rxf5 *(45.Qxf5 Rxg6+ 46.Kf4 Qxh2+ 47.Kf3 Qg3+ 48.Ke2 Qg2+ 49.Kd1 Qg1+ 50.Ke2 Qg2+ 51.Ke1 Qg1+ 52.Ke2 Qg2+=)* 45...Rxg6+ 46.Qxg6 Qxh2+ 47.Kf3 Qf4+ 48.Kg2 Qh2+ 49.Kf3 Qf4+ 50.Kg2 Qh2+ 51.Kf3=]
43...Qb8+ 44.Re5 Qf6 would kill now.
44...Qd6 Prevents Qf6. **45.Kg5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.49
1-0

D43
□ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2717**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (7.6) 25.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D43: Semi-Slav: 5 Bg5 h6 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 Nd7 8.Be2 Qe7N**
[8...g6 9.0-0 *(9.e4 dxc4 10.e5 Qd8 11.Bxc4 Bg7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Re1 b5 14.Bd3 c5 15.Nxb5 Bb7 16.Be4 Bxe4 17.Rxe4 Rb8 18.dxc5 Rxb5 19.Rd4 Qb8 20.Rxd7 Rxc5 21.Qd4 Rfc8* 17) Moscow: Main Line (7.e3)-Moscow | 8.Be2 | White plays ,1*)* 9...Bg7 10.cxd5 exd5 11.b4 Qd6 12.Qb3 0-0 13.b5 Nb6 14.Rac1 Bf5 15.a4 Nd7 16.a5 Rab8 17.Qa2 Rfc8

18.a6 Nf6 19.axb7 Rxb7 20.bxc6 Rxc6 21.Ne5 Rcb6 22.Na4 Rb4 23.Nc6 Reiners,U (2510)-Perez Mederos,R (2495) London 1996 CBM 113 Extra [Shamkovich,Leonid; Kreiman,B] 1-0 (33)]

[8...Bd6 9.0-0 Qe7 10.e4 *(10.Qc2 0-0 11.a3 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nf6 13.e4 e5 14.dxe5 Bxe5 15.Rae1 Rd8 16.Ba2 b6 17.h3 Ba6 18.Nxe5 Qxe5 19.f4 Qd4+ 20.Rf2 Bd3 21.Qb3 Bxe4 22.Rd1 Qe3 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 ½-½ (23) Bellmann,H (2237)-Schaefer,U (2139) BDF 2024 Fernschach2025 [Bellmann,Herbert])* 10...dxe4 11.Nxe4 Bc7 12.c5 0-0 13.Re1 Ba5 14.Rf1 Bc7 15.Qc2 e5 16.Bc4 Nf6 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.dxe5 Qxe5 20.Rfe1 Qg5 21.Re3 Bf5 22.Qc3 Bg6 23.Rae1 Hantel,T (2797)-Vit Spelar Sgf3 (2706) Attacking with 1 d4 [Shakhmaty v SSSR; Kretschmar] ½-½ (69)]

[8...Bb4 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qc2 Bxc3 11.Qxc3 dxc4 12.Rfd1 c5 13.Bxc4 a6 14.Qa3 b6 15.Bb5 Rd8 16.Bc6 Ra7 17.dxc5 Nxc5 18.Qb4 Nd7 19.Qd6 Rf8 20.Rd2 Nc5 21.Rad1 Qe7 22.b4 Qxd6 23.Rxd6 Ferragut,A (2683)-Ding Liren vs. Leko, P (2726) Schachbundesliga Championship 2020 200 Traps In The Opening [Eisen] 1-0 (31)]

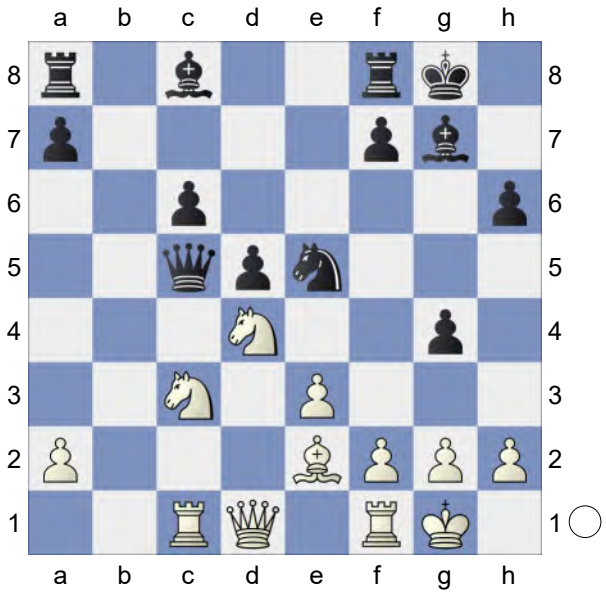
9.c5 -0.04/20

[Better is 9.0-0± 0.49/18]

9...g5= 10.b4 Bg7 The position is equal. **11.Rc1 0-0 12.b5 g4 13.Nd2 e5 14.Nb3 exd4 15.Nxd4 Ne5**

[15...Nxc5 16.bxc6 Rd8 17.0-0± *(17.Bxg4 Bxg4 18.Qxg4 Nd3+ 19.Kd2 Nxc1∓)*]

16.0-0 Qxc5 17.bxc6 bxc6



18.Ncb5! Prevents Qd6. **18...Qb6 19.Nd6 Bd7 20.N4f5** Pair of Knights! **20...h5! 21.f3 Rfb8 22.Kh1 Bf8** White must now prevent ...Bxd6. **23.f4 Ng6** And now ...Bxd6 would win. **24.e4! Qb4 25.e5 Qa3** 0.90/24

[25...Rb6!= -0.17/21 remains equal.]

26.Ng3± Bxd6

[26...Qxa2? 27.Nxh5 Bxd6 28.Nf6+ *(28.exd6 Qb2+-)* 28...Kh8 29.exd6+-]

27.exd6 Qxd6 28.Nxh5 Rb4 29.Bxg4 f5 30.Bf3 aiming for a3. **30...Rf8 31.a3 Rb7 32.Re1 Rf7 33.Qd4 Nf8** 1.01/23

[Black should play 33...Rb3± 0.51/21]

34.Re3 0x0.0018c0ed7532dp-1022s more active pieces. **34...Nh7?** 3.10/24

[34...Ng6± 1.24/20]

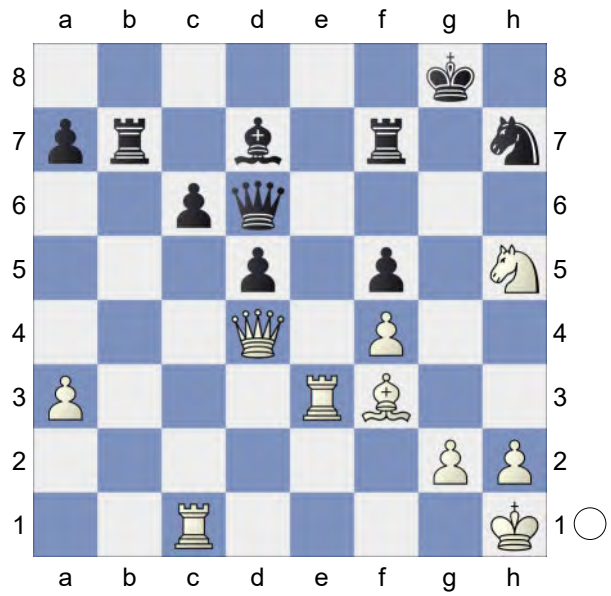
(Diagram)

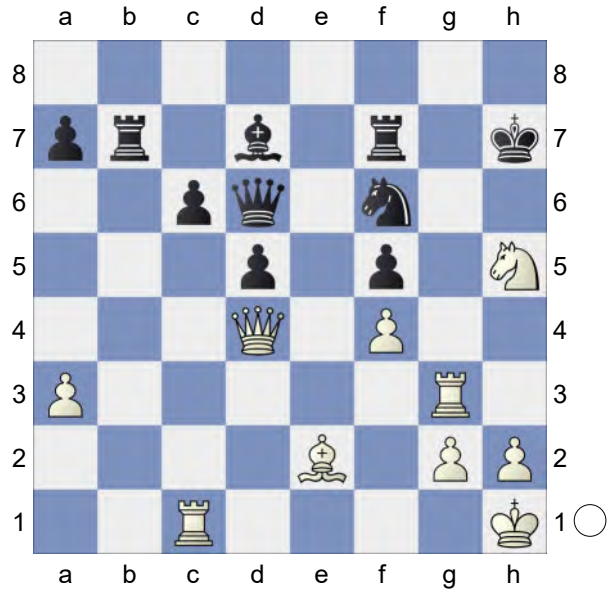
35.Be2? 1.16/23

[35.Bxd5!+- 3.10/24 is more deadly. Qxd5 36.Qc3]

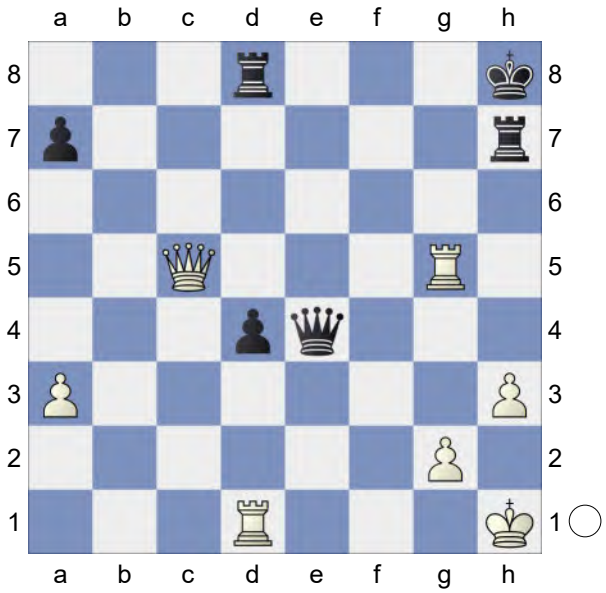
35...Nf6 36.Rg3+ Kh7

(Diagram)



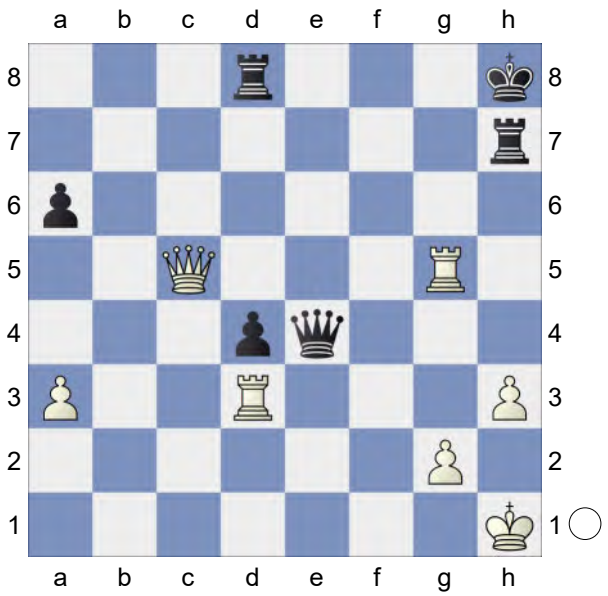


37.Rg5! c5 38.Nxf6+ 0.97/21
Dancing on a razor blade.
[38.Qxc5? Qxc5 39.Nxf6+ Rxf6-+]
[⌓38.Qf2 1.31/22 White wants to mate with Qh4. Ne4 39.Qh4]
38...Rxf6 39.Qe3 0.57/22
[39.Rh5+± 0.96/22 Kg7 40.Qe3]
39...Rb8 1.90/22
[39...c4!± 0.57/22]
40.Bd3+-
[40.Rxc5 Qe6 41.Qc1 Qxe2∓]
40...c4 41.Qh3+ Rh6 42.Bxf5+ Bxf5 43.Qxf5+ Kh8 44.h3
[Don't take 44.Rh5?! Rf8 45.Qg5 *(45.Qxd5 Qxd5 46.Rxd5 Rxf4±; 45.Rxh6+ Qxh6 46.Qe5+ Qf6±)* 45...Rxh5 46.Qxh5+ Kg7±]
44...Rd8 3.04/24
[44...Qe6 1.74/23 was called for. 45.Qxe6 *(45.Qxd5 Rxh3+ 46.gxh3 Qxh3+ 47.Kg1 Qe3+ 48.Kh1 Qh3+ 49.Kg1 Qe3+ 50.Kh1 Qh3+=)* 45...Rxe6]
45.Rd1 d4 46.Qf7 Inhibits Qe7.
46...Rh7 Inhibits Qg7+. **47.Qxc4 Qxf4 48.Qc5→** White wants a kill. **48...Qe4?** 8.79/27
[48...Qf6 2.09/22 49.Rf5 Qd6 50.Rxd4 Qxd4 51.Rf8+ Kg7 52.Qe7+ Kg6 53.Qe6+ Kg7 54.Qg8+ Kh6 55.Rxd8 Qa1+ 56.Kh2 Qe5+ 57.Qg3 Qxg3+ 58.Kxg3 Rg7+ 59.Kh2 Kg5]



49.Rd3!! Rdg3 is the strong threat.
49...a6
[49...Qe1+ 50.Kh2]

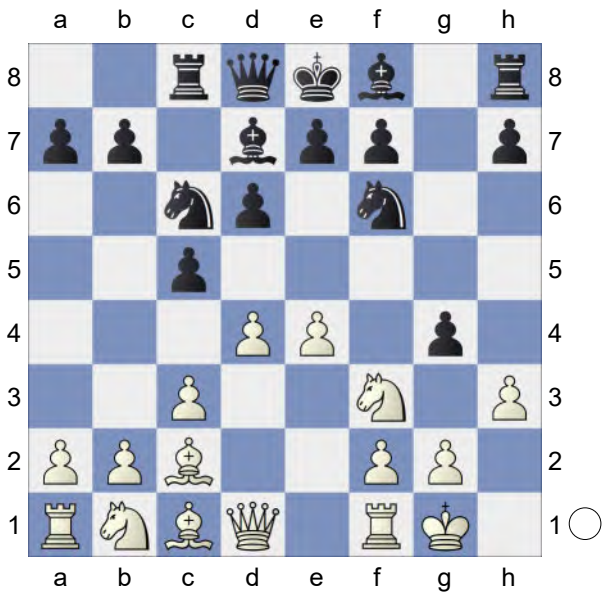
(Diagram)



50.Rdg3 21.55/23
[⌓50.Qb6! #20/23 Qe1+ *(50...Qe7 51.Rdg3)* 51.Kh2 Qe7 52.Rdg3 Qf8 53.Qe6 Re8 54.Qd5 Qg7 55.Rxg7]
50...Qf4 51.Rf3 Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.53
1-0

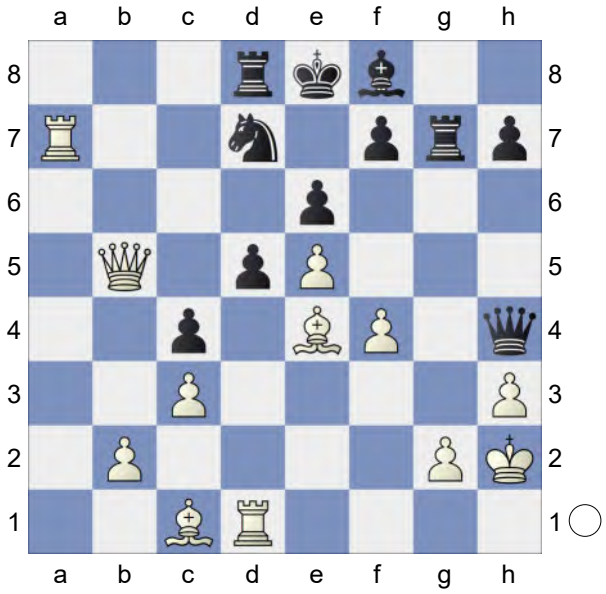
B50
☐ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
■ **Erigaisi Arjun** **2801**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (7.7) 25.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.h3 Bd7 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Bc2 Rc8 7.0-0 g5N**
[7...g6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bg7 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Re1 Na5 12.e5 Ne8 13.Bg5 f6 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Qe2 Re8 16.Rac1 a6 17.Bd3 b5 18.Ne4 Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Bf5 20.Ned2 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 Qd7 22.Qc3 Ibarra Jerez,J (2559)-Vidit,S (2721) chess.com INT 2024 [Fitzsimons, David] 1-0 (44)]
8.d4 White has an edge. **8...g4**
(Diagram)

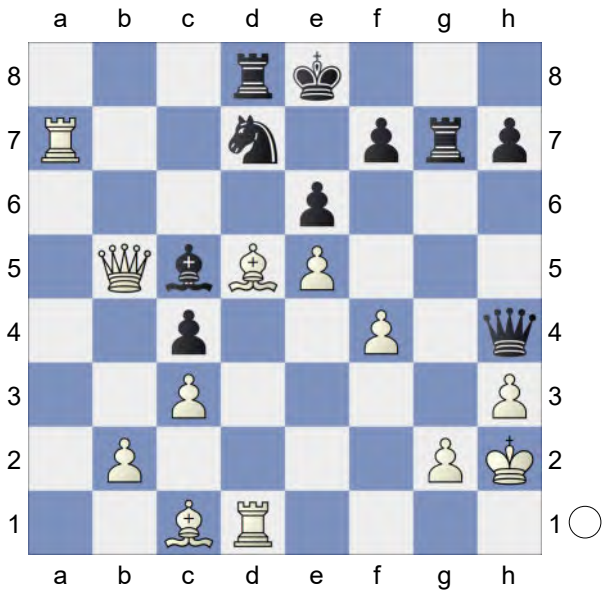


9.d5! gxf3 10.dxc6 Bxc6 ...fxg2 is the strong threat. **11.Qxf3 Rg8** Against Bg5
12.Rd1 e6 0.53/22
[12...Qd7= 0.14/20 might be stronger.]
13.Nd2 b5 1.02/21 Prevents Nc4.
[13...Nd7= 0.24/20 keeps the balance.]
14.a4!± Threatens to win with axb5.
14...a6 15.axb5 axb5 16.Nf1 0.49/21
[Better is 16.Nb3± 0.84/23]
16...Nd7 17.Ng3 Ne5 1.08/23
[17...Ra8± 0.60/22 was preferrable. 18.Bf4 Rxa1 19.Rxa1 Qb6]
18.Qh5 Rg7 19.Kh2 Qf6 20.f4 Nd7 21.Qe2 Qd8 1.53/22
[⌓21...Rg8 1.12/22]
22.e5 1.21/22
[⌓22.f5 1.53/22]
22...Qh4 1.71/22 Prevents Bf4.
[22...dxe5± 1.21/22 23.Be4 Qc7 24.Bxc6 Qxc6]
23.Ne4!+- Active counter play! **23...Bxe4** 2.29/21
[23...dxe5? 24.g3 Qd8 25.fxe5+-]
[23...d5± 1.58/22]
24.Bxe4 d5
[24...f5? 25.exf6 Qxf6 26.Qxb5+-]

25.Qxb5 And now Ra7 would win.
25...c4 26.Ra7 Rd8

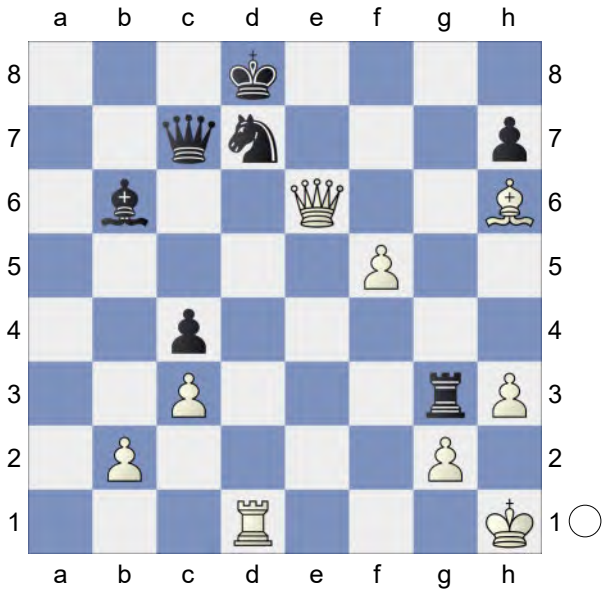


27.Bxd5 exd5
[27...Bc5?



28.Rxd7! Rxd7 29.Bc6+-]
28.Qxd5→ Black is in trouble. Chess con chili. **28...Qe7** 4.74/25
[28...Nb8 2.27/25 29.Qxd8+ Qxd8 30.Rxd8+ Kxd8]
29.Ra8 2.02/25
[⌓29.Be3 4.74/25]
29...Rxa8 3.06/24
[⌓29...Qe6 2.02/25]

30.Qxa8+ Qd8 Black cannot hold the game after this. **31.Qb7 Bc5** 5.86/24 Prevents Be3.
[31...Rg6 3.91/24 is a better defense. 32.Be3 Bh6]
32.f5 White is clearly winning. **32...Bb6 33.Bh6 Rg8 34.Kh1 Qc7 35.Qd5 Rg3 36.e6 fxe6 37.Qxe6+ Kd8**



38.Bf4! Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.41
1-0

C45
□ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2751**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (8.1) 26.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

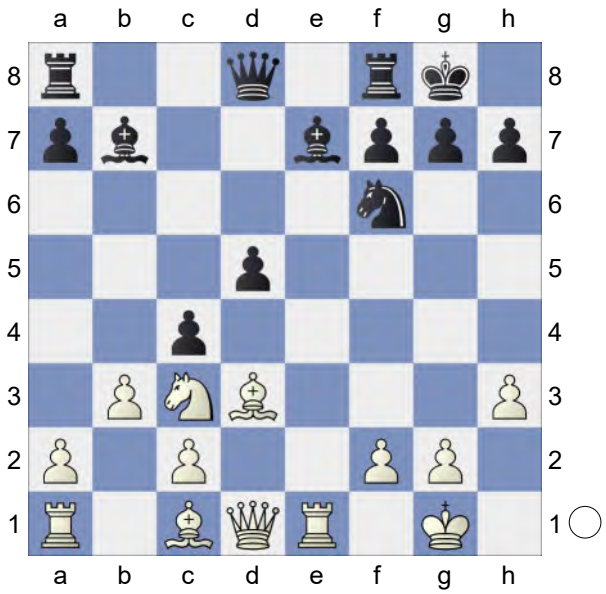
C45: Scotch Game in this game black reached comfortable equality ..and right at the moment when he started taking over in the endgame ..he proposed a draw with 26...a5? . . .. study what happens after 26...a6! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.Bd3 d5 7.exd5 cxd5 8.0-0 Be7 9.h3 0-0 10.Re1 c5**

[10...Be6 11.Nd2 h6 12.Nf3 c5 13.b3 Ne4 14.Bxe4 dxe4 15.Qxd8 Rfxd8 16.Rxe4 Bf6 17.Rb1 Bf5 18.Re2 Rd1+ 19.Re1 Bxc2 20.Rxd1 Bxb1 21.Rd2 Rd8 22.Bb2 Bg5 23.Rxd8+ Bxd8 24.a3 Bc2 25.b4 Stamatiou,R (2142)-Magalakis,S (2153) [GM Ioannis Papaioannou] ½-½ (31)]

11.b3 The position is equal. **11...Bb7 12.Nc3N**

[12.Bb2 c4 13.bxc4 Bc5 14.Ba3 Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2 dxc4 16.Bxc4 Qb6+ 17.Kf1 Qc6 18.Re2 Qxc4 19.Bxf8 Ba6 20.Kg1 Qxe2 21.Qxe2 Bxe2 Chapter 9-Scotch 6.Bd3 Scotch for Black [GM Pier Luigi Basso]]

12...c4



And now ...Bb4 would win. **13.Bf1 d4**

[13...Bb4!? 14.Bd2 Rb8=]

14.Nb5 Bb4 15.Bd2 Bc5 next ...Ne4 is good for Black. **16.Re5**

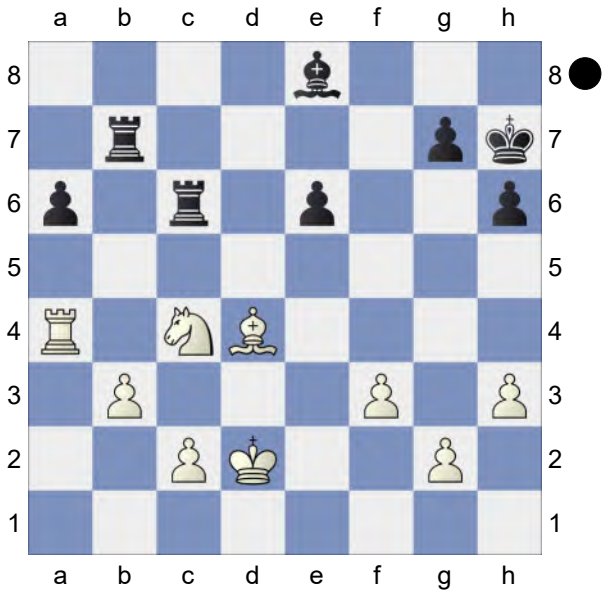
[Don't blunder 16.bxc4? a6 17.Re5 Qc8-+]

16...Ne4 aiming for ...Qf6. **17.Rxc5! Qf6 18.Be1 Nxc5 19.Qxd4 Qxd4 20.Nxd4 Rfd8 21.Nf5 cxb3 22.axb3 a6 23.Bc4 Ne6 24.Bxe6 fxe6 25.Ne3 Rac8 26.Ra4 Rc5 27.Bb4 Re5 28.Bc3 Re4 29.Ra2 Rf4 30.Ra5 h6 31.Kf1 Bc6 32.Kg1 Bb7 33.Kf1 Kh7 34.Ke2 Rf7 35.f3 Rc7 36.Be1 Rcd7 37.Bb4** White has compensation. **37...Rb8 38.Bc3 Rc8 39.Bb4 Rc6 40.Bc5 Bc8 41.Ba3 Rb7 42.Bb2 Bd7 43.Ra3! Be8 44.Bd4 Bf7 45.Ra2** -0.37/23

[45.c4= -0.01/23]

45...Rb4∓ 46.Bb2 Bg6 47.Kd2 Rb5 48.Ra4 Rb7 49.Bd4 Be8 Threatens to win with ...Rd6. **50.Nc4** -1.45/23

[⌓50.Ke1 -0.73/22]



Prevents Rd6. **50...e5!∓ 51.Nxe5** -1.95/24

[⌓51.Bxe5 -1.62/24 Rg6 52.Ra2]

51...Rd6-+ 52.Rc4 Bb5 53.Rb4 -3.20/23

[⌓53.Ke3 -1.70/21]

53...a5 54.Rxb5 Rxb5 55.Ke3 Rbd5 56.Bc3 a4 57.bxa4 Rc5 58.Bd4 Rxc2 59.g4 Ra2 Black is clearly winning. **60.f4 Rxa4 61.Bc5 Rd5 62.Be7** -12.32/26

[⌓62.Nd3 -5.16/25]

62...g5 63.Nd3 gxf4+ Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /

Black=0.05 (flawless)
0-1

C78
□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2695**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (8.2) 26.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and Möller Defences **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.c3 d6 8.d4 Bb6 9.h3 0-0 10.Re1 Rb8** 0.23/21
[⩲10...Bb7 -0.08/20]
[10...Re8 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Bb7 13.Qd3 Na5 14.Bc2 g5 15.Nxg5 hxg5 16.Bxg5 Kg7 17.Nd2 Qc8 18.Qg3 Nh7 19.dxe5 dxe5 20.Be7+ Kh6 21.Nf3 Qe6 22.Nh4 Rg8 23.Qf3 Kg7 24.Nf5+ Kh8 25.Rad1 Praggnanandhaa,R (2757)-Mishra,A (2604) Biel 2024 CBM 221 [Mishra, Abhimanyu] 0-1 (55)]
[10...h6 11.Be3 Re8 12.Nbd2 exd4 13.cxd4 Na5 14.Bc2 Bb7 15.b4 Nc4 16.Nxc4 bxc4 17.d5 c6 18.dxc6 Bxc6 19.Bxb6 Qxb6 20.Qxd6 Qb7 21.e5 Rad8 22.Qc5 Nd7 23.Qxc4 Bxf3 24.e6 fxe6 25.gxf3 Sahidi,S (2481)-Barp,A (2449) Vrnjacka Banja 2024 1-0 (32)]
11.Be3= Re8
[Don't do 11...Nxe4 12.Bd5 exd4 13.cxd4±]
12.Nbd2 h6 13.dxe5N -0.04/21
[13.d5± 0.41/20 Bxe3 14.Rxe3]
[13.a3 Na5 14.Ba2 exd4 15.Bxd4 Nc6 16.Bxb6 Rxb6 17.c4 b4 18.c5 dxc5 19.e5 Nh5 20.Rc1 Nf4 21.Rxc5 Be6 Chapter 5 - 7.c3 d6 8.d4 Bb6]
[13.a4 Na5 14.Bc2 c5 15.Qe2 cxd4 16.cxd4 Nc6 17.dxe5 dxe5 18.axb5 axb5 19.Red1 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 Qb6 21.Qxb6 Rxb6 22.Nb3 Nb4 23.Bb1 Na6 24.Ne1 Be6 25.Nd2 Rd6 26.Bd3 Nc5 27.Be2 Red8 Omonova,U (2147) -Abdumalik,Z (2473) Hangzhou 2023 ½-½ (33)]
13...Nxe5 14.Bc2 Against Nd3
14...Bxe3 15.Rxe3 c5 16.Re1 Bb7 17.a4 Ng6 18.axb5 axb5 19.b4 Qb6 0.00/21
[19...Nf4∓ -0.32/20]
20.bxc5 Qxc5 21.Rb1 d5 22.e5 Ne4 23.Bxe4 The position is equal.
[23.Nxe4 looks sharper. dxe4 24.Qd4 Qxd4 25.Nxd4 Rxe5 26.Rxb5 Rxb5 27.Nxb5 Ba6 28.Nd6]
23...dxe4 24.Nxe4
[24.Nd4 keeps more tension. Qxc3 25.Nxe4 Bxe4 26.Rxe4 Rxe5 27.Rxe5 Nxe5 28.Rxb5 Rd8 29.Rxe5 Rxd4 30.Qe1]
24...Bxe4 25.Rxe4 Nxe5
[25...Qxc3 seems wilder. 26.Rb3 Qc5 27.Qe1 Rbd8]
26.Nxe5 Rxe5 27.Rxe5 Qxe5 KQR-KQR **28.Qd3 Rc8 29.Qxb5 Qxb5 30.Rxb5 Rxc3** Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

C42
□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2768**
■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2717**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (8.3) 26.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3**

Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.Re1 Re8 10.Qb3 h6N

[10...Re7 11.c5 Bc7 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.Qxc3 Rxe1+ 14.Qxe1 h6 15.Qb4 b6 16.Be3 a5 17.Qd2 bxc5 18.dxc5 Nd7 19.Re1 Qf8 20.Bd4 Ba6 21.Bxa6 Rxa6 22.Nh4 Nxc5 23.Nf5 Ne4 24.Qe2 Qb4 25.Rd1 Benson,G-Mcintyre,G corr-CCLA 2003 UltraCorr3a [Jacobi/Runting] 1-0]

[10...Na6

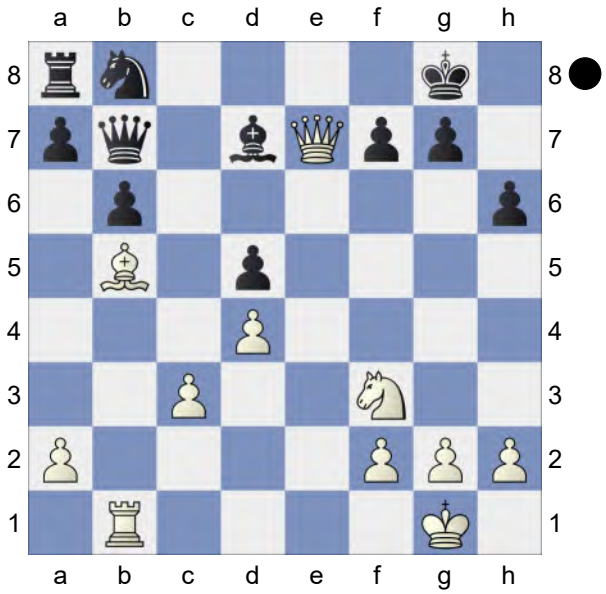
A) 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Nc3 Be6 13.a3 Rc8 *(13...Nc7 14.Qc2 f5 15.Nb5 Nxb5 16.Bxb5 Bd7 17.Qa4 Nc3 18.bxc3 Rxe1+ 19.Nxe1 Qe8 20.Qb3 Qxe1+ 21.Bf1 Bc6* ½-½ (21) Makarichev,S (2515) -Nikolenko,O (2405) USSR 45/(351) 1987*)* 14.Qxb7 Nec5 15.dxc5 Nxc5 16.Qb5 a6 17.Bxh7+ Kxh7 18.Qe2 Bg4 ½-½ (18) Rodriguez Perez,R (1787)-Bellmann,H (2401) LSS 2023 update Okt.-Dez. [Bellmann, Herbert];

B) 11.c5 Bf8 12.Nc3 Bf5 13.Bxa6 bxa6 14.Bf4 Qa5 15.Ne5 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Qc7 17.Qa4 Qc8 18.c4 dxc4 19.Nxc4 Qd7 20.Bd6 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Re8 22.Rxe8 Qxe8 23.Ne3 Qe4 24.h3 Be6 25.Qb4 Kasimdzhanov,R (2685)-Bluvshtein, M (2583) Khanty Mansiysk 2010 CI1-130 [Kasimdzhanov,Rustam] 1-0 (35)]

11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Nc3 White is slightly better. **12...Nxc3 13.Rxe8+**

[Of course not 13.Qxc3 Rxe1+ 14.Qxe1 Nc6=]

13...Qxe8 14.bxc3 Qc6 15.Rb1 b6 16.Bb5 Qb7 17.Ba3 Bxa3 18.Qxa3 Bd7 19.Qe7



Black must now prevent Ne5. &Bianco is more active. **19...Nc6 20.Qd6 a6 21.Bxc6 Bxc6 22.Ne5 Rc8 23.h4 b5! 24.Nd3 Qc7 25.Qxc7 Rxc7=** Endgame KRB-KRN **26.Nc5 a5 27.f3 Ra7 28.Rb2 Kf8 29.Kf2 Ke7 30.Ke3 Kd6 31.Kd2 h5 32.Nd3 f6 33.Rb1 Be8 34.Re1 Bg6 35.Nc5** Re6+ is the strong threat. **35...Bf5** Prevents Re6+. **36.Re8 b4 37.g3 Kc6 38.Nd3 Rb7 39.Ra8 Bxd3** The position is equal. **40.Kxd3** KR-KR **40...Kb6 41.Rd8 Kc6** Prevents Rd6+. **42.g4 bxc3 43.Rc8+ Kd6 44.Kxc3**

[44.gxh5 looks sharper. Rb2 45.a4 Rf2 46.Ke3]

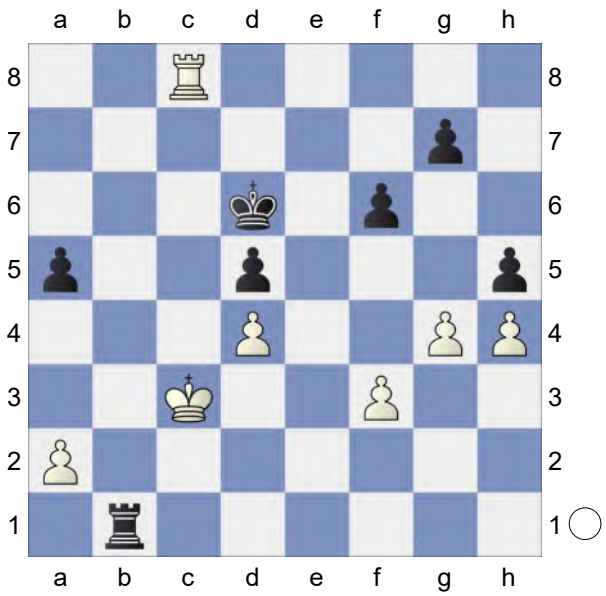
44...Rb1

(Diagram)

Strongly threatening ...Rc1+. **45.Rg8 Rf1 46.gxh5 Rxf3+ 47.Kc2 Rf4 48.Kc3**

[48.Rxg7 feels hotter. Rxd4 49.h6 Rxh4 50.h7]

48...Rxh4 49.Rxg7 Rxh5 50.Ra7! Rh3+ 51.Kb2 Rd3 52.Ra6+ Ke7



53.Rxa5 Rxd4 54.Kc3 Rc4+ 55.Kd3 Kd6 56.Ra8 Ke5 57.a4 Rd4+ 58.Kc3 Threatening mate with Re8+. **58...Rc4+ 59.Kd3 Rc6 60.a5 Re6 61.a6 f5 62.a7** aiming for Rh8. **62...Re7** And now ...f4 would win. **63.Ke3 d4+ 64.Kd3 f4 65.Rb8 Rxa7 66.Rb5+ Kf6 67.Ke4 d3 68.Kxf4 Rd7 69.Rb6+ Ke7** (→ ... d2)

[69...Kf7!? 70.Rb1 Kf6=]

70.Rb1 d2 71.Rd1 Kf6 72.Ke4 Ke6 73.Kf4 Rd4+

[73...Rd3!? 74.Ke4 Rh3=]

74.Ke3 Ke5 75.Rxd2 Rxd2 76.Kxd2 Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)

½-½

C65

□ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2741**
■ **Gukesh D** **2777**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (8.4) 26.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3... Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5 First rounds are always tricky. You do not know what shape you and your opponent are in. Therefore, I try to prepare well for the first round and get some advantage out of the opening. This is what I did in this game as well. Erste Runden sind immer heikel. Man weiß nicht, in welcher Form man selbst und sein Gegner sind. Deshalb versuche ich, mich gut auf die erste Runde vorzubereiten und einen Vorteil aus der Eröffnung herauszuholen. Das habe ich auch in dieser Partie getan. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.0-0 Qe7 7.Nbd2 a5**

[7...Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.Nc4 *(9.a3 Nd7 10.b4 Bd6 11.Nc4 Nb6 12.Ne3 f6 13.c4 c5 14.Nf5 Qf8 15.Be3 Nd7 16.Rb1 cxb4 17.axb4 Bxb4 18.Rxb4 Bxf3 19.Qa4 Be2 20.Rxb7 Bxf1 21.Rxc7 Rd8 22.Qc6* 1-0 (22) Durarbayli,V (2628)-Milikow,Y (2349) Terme Catez 2022 CBM 208 [Durarbayli,Vasif]*)* 9...Nd7 10.a3 a6 11.b4 Ba7 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Nxe3 f6 14.Nf5 Qf8 15.Ng3 Bf7 16.Qd2 g6 17.Nh2 h5 18.f4 exf4 19.Qxf4 0-0-0 20.e5 f5 21.Nf3 Qe7 22.Rae1 So,W (2741)-Carlsen,M (2881) chess24.com INT 2020 CBM 196 Extra [Mueller,Karsten] 0-1 (64)]

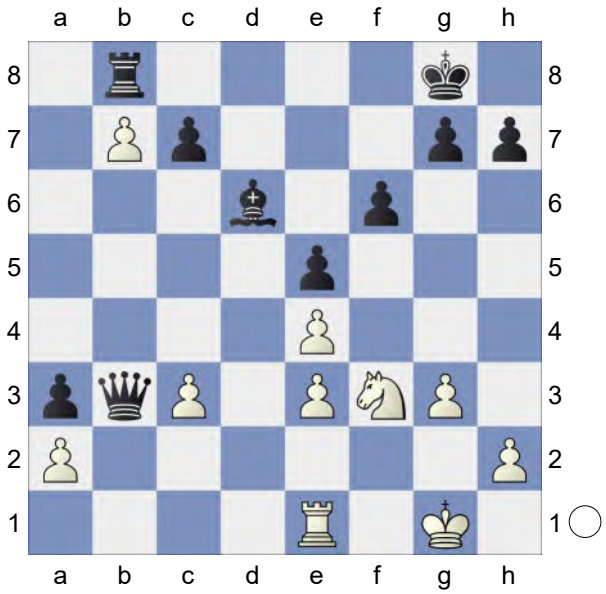
8.Nc4 White has an edge. **8...Nd7 9.c3 0-0 10.Qc2N**

[10.d4 exd4 11.cxd4 b5 12.Nxa5 *(12.Ncd2 Bb6 13.a4 Bb7 14.Re1 f5 15.exf5 Qf7* Chapter 3-5.Bxc6 Anti Berlin 6.00 and 6 [GM Pier Luigi Basso] *)* 12...Rxa5 13.dxc5 Ra4 Alieksieienko,M-Solution Soviet Union 200 Traps In The Opening [John Watson]]

10...b6 11.Re1 Ba6 12.b3

[12.Ncxe5 with more complications. Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Qxe5 14.d4]

12...Rfe8 13.d4 Bxc4 14.bxc4 Bd6 15.Bd2 a4 16.Rad1 f6 17.g3 Qf7 18.d5 Nc5 19.Be3 Nb7 20.dxc6 Na5 21.Bxb6 Nxc4 22.Be3 Reb8 23.Rb1 Inhibits Rb2. **23...a3** -0.02/24
[23...Rd8∓ -0.47/22 24.Qe2 Qe6]
24.Rb7= Rxb7 25.cxb7 Rb8 26.Qb3 Strongly threatening Ba7.
[26.Qa4!?]
26...Nxe3 27.fxe3
[Much weaker is 27.Qxf7+ Kxf7 28.Rxe3 Rxb7∓]
27...Qxb3



Remove Defender **28.axb3 Rxb7** KRB-KRN **29.Nd2 Kf7** -0.01/25
[29...a2∓ -0.41/25]
30.Ra1 The position is equal. **30...Ke6 31.Kf2 g6 32.Ra2 f5 33.Kf3 h5** Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

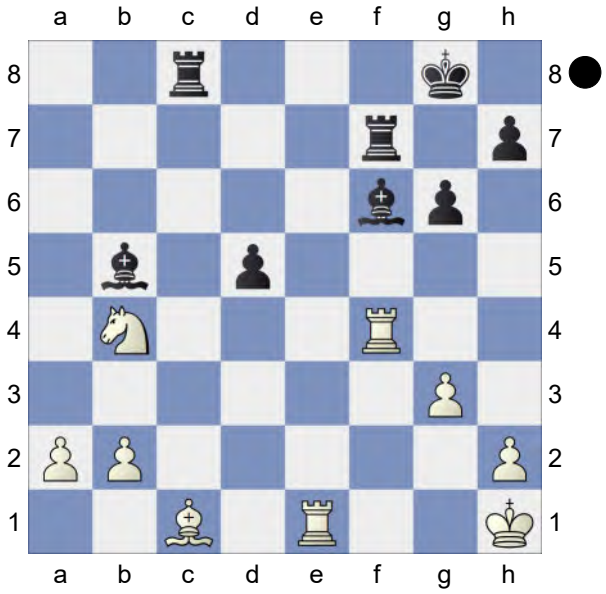
D35
□ **Erigaisi Arjun 2801**
■ **Sarana,Alexey 2677**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (8.5) 26.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Qf3 Bg6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Qxf6 gxf6 10.Nf3 a5 11.Nh4 Bb4 12.Rc1 Nd7** White has an edge. **13.a3 Bxc3+ 14.Rxc3 a4 15.Be2 Ke7 16.g3**
[16.f3 Nb6 17.Kf2 Nc8 18.g3 Nd6 19.Ng2 h5 20.Nf4 Bf5 21.h3 Kd7 22.Re1 b5 23.Bf1 Bg6 24.h4 Bf5 25.Rc5 Nb7 26.Rc3 Nd6 27.Rec1 Nc4 28.e4 Be6 29.Nd3 Ke7 30.Nb4 Rac8 Oparin,G (2681)-Bacrot,E (2662) Chess.com INT 2023 ½-½ (57)]
16...Kd6N
[16...Nf8 17.Kd2 Ne6 18.Rhc1 Ng5 19.f3 h5 20.Ng2 Ne6 21.Ke1 26) QGD: Carlsbad - 6...Bf5 E-QGD Carlsbad - 6...Bf5 7.Qf3 Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1.d4 -]
17.Kd2 Nf8 18.Rf1 Ne6 19.Bd3 Ra5 20.Nf5+ Kd7 21.Nh4 -0.01/20
[21.Ke2± 0.38/20 feels stronger.]
21...Kd6= 22.Bc2 Nc7 23.Bd3 Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

D36
□ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (8.6) 26.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D36: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation: Main line (5 Bg5 c6 6 Qc2) The Strike When the next round began many of the players made it clear they were dissatisfied with the status quo and staged a strike, arriving at the playing hall but refusing to move. After 15 minutes of "play", with four of the six games still in the starting position, the organisers decided to cancel the round and hold a meeting of all players and organisers that evening. (The B Final and the Women's Zonal proceeded as normal.) The mood at the players' meeting was tense. Xu was the most aggressive in arguing in that Chinese games were entirely legitimate, while also accusing me of receiving thrown games from Chris Depasquale (see game above) and Johansen. Annotations from 1987. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Nge2 Nf8 9.Qc2 Ne6 10.Bh4 g6 11.Rd1**
[11.h3 Nh5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.0-0-0 Bd7 14.Kb1 Nf6 15.Rc1 0-0 16.g4 Rfe8 17.Ng3 Ng5 18.f4 Nxh3 19.Nf5 gxf5 20.g5 Nxg5 21.fxg5 Ng4 22.Rh5 Nxe3 23.Qh2 Ng4 24.Qh4 h6 25.Be2 Qe3 Johansen,D (2410)-Rogers,I (2525) Jakarta 1987 [Rogers,Ian] 0-1]
11...0-0 12.0-0 a5N
[12...b6 13.f3 Bb7 14.Bf2 *(14.Kh1 Rc8 15.Qd2 Ne4 16.fxe4 Bxh4 17.exd5 cxd5 18.e4 dxe4 19.Bxe4 Bxe4 20.Nxe4 Ng7 21.d5 Rc4 22.N2c3 Nf5 23.g3 Rd4 24.Qf4 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Bf6 26.Nxf6+ Qxf6 27.g4 Qh4 28.d6 Re8* Douissa,O (2255)-Manteiga,F (2006) Chess.com INT 2024 0-1 (32)*)* 14...Rc8 15.h3 c5 16.dxc5 Nxc5 17.Nf4 Bd6 18.Qd2 d4 19.exd4 Bxf4 20.Qxf4 Nxd3 21.Rxd3 Ba6 22.Bh4 Nh5 23.Qg4 f5 24.Qxh5 gxh5 25.Bxd8 Bxd3 26.Rd1 Bc2 27.Rd2 Brunner,N-Spassky,B France 2002 0-1 (36)]
[12...Ng4 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.h3 Nf6 15.Rfe1 Ng5 16.Ng3 Re8 17.f4 Ne6 18.Qf2 Ng7 19.e4 dxe4 20.Ncxe4 Nxe4 21.Rxe4 Be6 22.Rde1 Qd7 23.Bb1 Bd5 24.Re5 f6 25.Ne4 Bxe4 26.R5xe4 Rxe4 27.Bxe4 Liang,C (2488)-Wu,W (2442) Chiva 2008 EXT 2017 [ChessBase II] ½-½ (58)]
[12...Nh5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.f3 Rd8 15.Qd2 b5 16.Rc1 Bb7 17.Kh1 a6 18.Bb1 Re8 19.Nd1 c5 20.dxc5 Nxc5 21.Nd4 Rac8 22.Re1 Ng7 23.Nf2 Nce6 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.Nd3 Qh4 26.Nxe6 Nxe6 27.Rc1 Van Dalfsen,P (2295)-Regedzinski,T/Allies (2486) Polska 88/298 2023 CBM 79_02 [John Watson] 0-1 (67)]
13.Nc1 White has an edge. **13...Ng7 14.f3 Be6 15.N1e2 Rc8 16.Kh1 Nd7 17.Bf2 b5 18.Nf4 Nb6 19.e4 Bg5 20.Be3 dxe4 21.fxe4 Bg4 22.Nce2** -0.13/23
[22.Rde1⩲ 0.44/21]
22...f5!= 23.exf5 Nxf5 24.Qb3+ Nc4 25.Bxc4+ bxc4 26.Qxc4+ Rf7 27.Bc1 -1.07/22
[27.Ne6= -0.14/23 remains equal. Nxe3 28.Nxd8 Nxc4 29.Nxf7]
27...Qe7 0.25/23
[27...Nd6∓ -1.07/22 28.Qb3 Bxf4 29.Bxf4 a4]

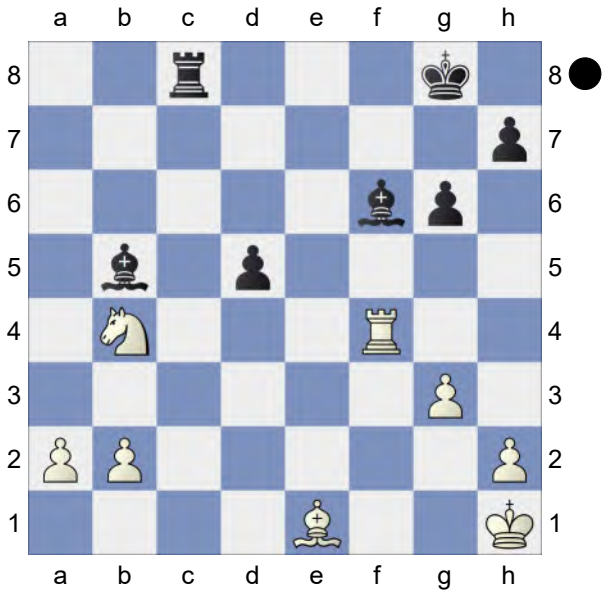
28.Rde1 And now Nc3 would win.
28...Bh4 0.36/22
[28...Nd6= -0.01/21 should be considered. 29.Qc2 Bh4]
29.Ng3 -0.34/23
[29.g3!± 0.36/22]
29...Qb4∓ 30.Qxb4 axb4 31.Nxf5 Bxf5 32.g3 Bf6 33.d5 Bd7
This bishop pair is nice. **34.Nd3** -0.85/23
[34.Rd1∓ -0.31/22]
34...cxd5 35.Nxb4 Bb5
[35...Bh3!? 36.Rf3 Bf5 37.Rxf5 *(37.Nxd5 Rxc1 38.Rxc1 Be4∓)* 37...gxf5∓]
36.Rf4 -1.24/21
[36.Rf2!= -0.29/25]



White is on the road to losing. **36...Re7!**↑ Black is on the roll. &Nero is more active. **37.Bd2** -2.26/23
[37.Rd1∓ -1.31/24 Bg5 38.Kg1 *(38.Nxd5 Bc6∓)*]
37...Rxe1+-+ 38.Bxe1

(Diagram)

Be5
[And not 38...Bxb2 39.a4 Bc4



40.a5∓]
39.Bc3
[Don't blunder 39.Nxd5? Bc6 40.Kg1 Bxd5-+]
39...Bxf4 40.gxf4 Endgame KRB-KBN
40...Kf7 41.Nc2 Bc4 42.a3 Re8 43.Nd4 Re4 44.f5 gxf5 45.Kg2 Rf4 46.a4 Ke8 47.a5 Kd7 48.h3 Rf1 49.Nf3 Ne5+ is the strong threat.
49...Ba6 50.h4 h5 51.b4 f4 52.Nd4 Bc4 Hoping for ...Rd1. **53.Bb2?** -5.78/27
[53.Nf3 -2.68/24 is more resistant.]
53...Rb1 Black is clearly winning. **54.Bc3 Rd1 55.Nf3 d4 56.Bb2 Bd5 57.Kf2 d3** (→ ...Bxf3) **58.Bc3 Bxf3 59.Kxf3 d2 60.Ke2** Inhibits Rf1. **60...f3+** Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.28 (precise)
0-1

D85
□ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**
■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (8.7) 26.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

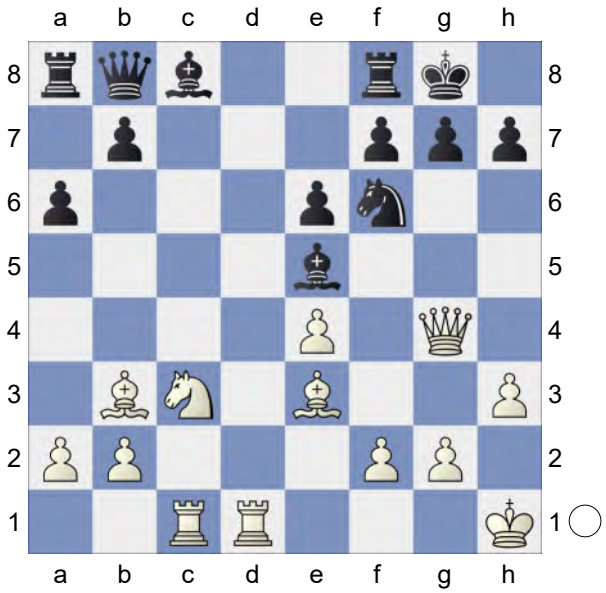
D85: Exchange Grünfeld: Unusual White 7th moves and lines with 7 Nf3 Gurevich, M: 'Inf 47/ 552' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Nd7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Bg5 c5 10.Rc1 h6 11.Be3! Nf6**
[11...Qc7 12.Bd3 a6 13.Qa3 b6 14.e5 Bb7 15.h4 e6 16.Qb3 Bd5 17.Qd1 Rad8 18.Qe2 Rc8 19.0-0 b5 20.h5 Qb7 21.hxg6 f6 22.exf6 Rxf6 23.Nh4 e5 24.Qh5 e4 25.Bxh6 Bxh6 26.Qxh6 Gurevich,M (2590)-Sokolov,I (2580) Reggio Emilia 1988 CI1-130 [Gurevich,Mikhail] 1-0 (34)]
[11...e5 12.dxc5 Qc7 13.Qb4 a5 14.Qa3 Nf6 15.Nd2 Ng4 16.Nc4 Be6 17.Bd2 Rfd8 18.f3 Bf8 19.fxg4 Qc6 Harnett,R-Zhang,P Framingham 2013 Inf18 [Lane, CCYB6]]
12.Bd3 Ng4 13.Bd2! e5N White is slightly better.
[13...e6 14.h3 Nf6 15.0-0 b6 16.e5 Nd5 17.dxc5 bxc5 18.Be4 Bb7 19.Rfe1 Qc7 20.Rcd1 c4 21.Qc2 Rfd8 22.Qc1 Kh7 23.h4 Ne7 24.Qc2 Bxe4 25.Qxe4 Rd5 26.Bf4 Rad8 27.Rxd5 Rxd5 28.Nd2 Dinstuhl,V (2340)-Mach,H (2240) Germany 1991 TD [Dinstuhl,Volkmar] ½-½ (89)]
14.d5 0.01/22
[14.h3± 0.85/22 Nf6 15.Nxe5]
14...f5= 15.0-0 Nf6 16.Nxe5 fxe4 17.Be2
[Much weaker is 17.Bxe4 Qe8 18.Qxe8 Rxe8 19.Bxg6 Rxe5∓]
17...Qe8 18.Qxe8 Rxe8 19.Nxg6 Black must now prevent Nf4. **19...Nxd5 20.Nf4 Nxf4 21.Bxf4 Be6 22.a4 b6 23.Bb5 Rf8 24.g3 Rad8 25.Rfe1 Bf5** 0.83/23
[25...Bd5± 0.44/24 should be considered.]
26.Bc6 Rd3 27.c4 0.23/22
[27.Bxe4± 0.56/23 Bxe4 28.Rxe4]
27...Rd4 0.74/21
[27...Ra3= 0.23/22]
28.Be3 0.35/23
[Better is 28.a5± 0.74/21]
28...Rd3± 29.Bf4 Rd4 30.Be3 0.01/21
[30.Bd5+± 0.68/23 Kh8 31.Rb1]
30...Rd3 Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
½-½

D37
□ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**
■ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (9.1) 28.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D37: Queen's Gambit Declined: 5 Bf4
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.Qc2 dxc4 6.e4 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Bxc4 White is slightly better.
8...a6
[8...Qc7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 Ne5 11.Bf4 Bd6 12.Bxe5 Bxe5 13.Nxe5 Qxe5 14.f4 Qc5+ 15.Kh1 e5 16.f5 Bd7 17.g4 b5 18.Bb3 h6 19.h4 b4 20.g5 hxg5 21.hxg5 bxc3 22.gxf6 Qb6 23.Rad1 Chapter 7 - 4...Nbd7 5. Qc2-5...dxc4 [Kalyan Arjun] (31)]
9.0-0 Black should prevent e5. **9...Qc7** 0.41/20 Against e5
[9...b5= 0.09/22 10.Bd3 Qc7]
10.Qe2 Bd6 Prevents e5. **11.Rd1N**
[11.Bb3 0-0 12.Rd1 Ne5 13.Nd4 Bd7 14.Bf4 Rad8 15.Bg3 Qb8

16.Kh1 Neg4 17.h3 Bxg3 18.hxg4 Be5 19.g5 Qa7 20.gxf6 Bxd4 21.e5 Bc6 22.fxg7 Kxg7 23.Qh5 f6 24.Bxe6 Kh8 25.Bf5 b5 Chapter-Games Game 3 (35)]

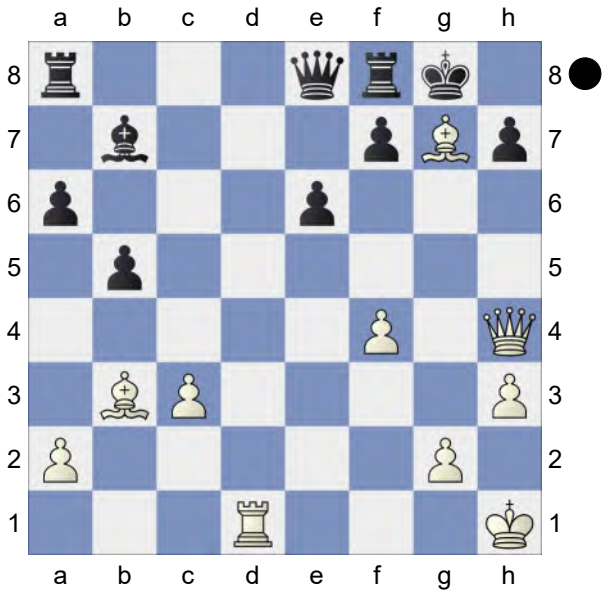
11...Ng4 12.h3 Nge5 13.Bb3 Nxf3+ 14.Qxf3 0-0 15.Be3 Bh2+ 16.Kh1 Black must now prevent g3. **16...Be5 17.Rac1 Qb8 18.Qg4 Nf6**



19.Qh4 b5 0.44/23
[19...Bd7± 0.82/21]
20.f4± Bxc3 21.Rxc3 Hoping for Bc2. **21...Bb7 22.Bd4** White wants to mate with Qxf6! &Bianco is much more active. The black rooks are badly placed. **22...Nxe4 23.Be5 Nxc3** 0.80/27
[23...Qe8!± 0.37/27]
24.bxc3 -0.01/23
[White should play 24.Rd7± 0.80/27 Bxg2+ 25.Kxg2]
24...Qe8 ...Rd8 is the strong threat. The position is equal. **25.Bxg7!**

(Diagram)

Decoy **25...Kxg7 26.Qg5+ Kh8 27.Qf6+ Kg8** aiming for ...Be4. **28.Qg5+ Kh8 29.Qf6+ Kg8** And now ...Be4

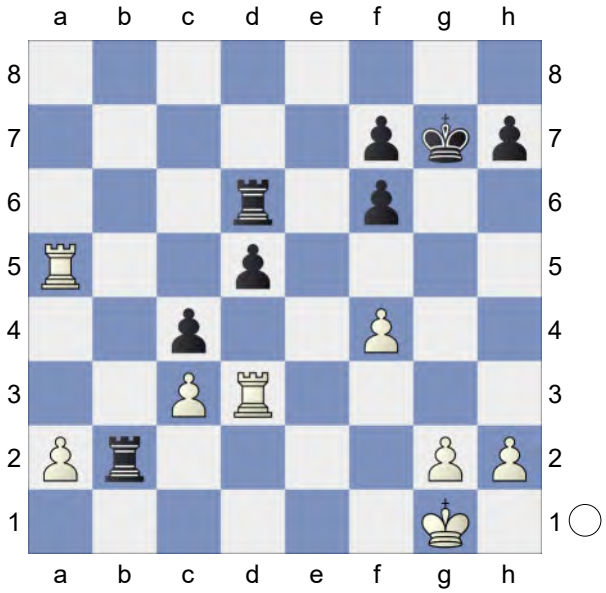


would win. **30.Qg5+** Weighted Error Value: White=0. 03 (flawless) /Black=0. 07 (flawless)
½-½

E21
□ **Sarana,Alexey** **2677**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (9.2) 28.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

E21: Nimzo-Indian: 4 Nf3 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Bg5 c5 6.e3 cxd4 7.Qxd4 Nc6 8.Qd3 Qa5N**
[8...h6 9.Bh4 d5 10.Rd1 g5 11.Bg3 Ne4 12.Nd2 Nc5 13.Qc2 d4
A) 14.Nf3 e5 *(14...Ne5 15.Ke2 Na4 16.Rxd4 h5 17.Rd2 Be7 18.Bf4* 0-1 (18) 3) Castle-Bai,J Opening Compass for Black and White 2023*)* 15.Nxe5 dxc3 16.Rxd8 cxb2+ 17.Ke2 Rxd8 18.Qxb2 Na4 19.Qc2 Nc3+ 20.Kf3 Rd4 21.h3 h5 22.Bh2 g4+ 23.Kg3 Rd2 24.Qb3 Ne4+ 25.Kh4 Be7+ 26.Kxh5 Kg7 27.Bf4 Bf5 28.Bh6+ Kh7 Bai,J (2553)-Ding,L

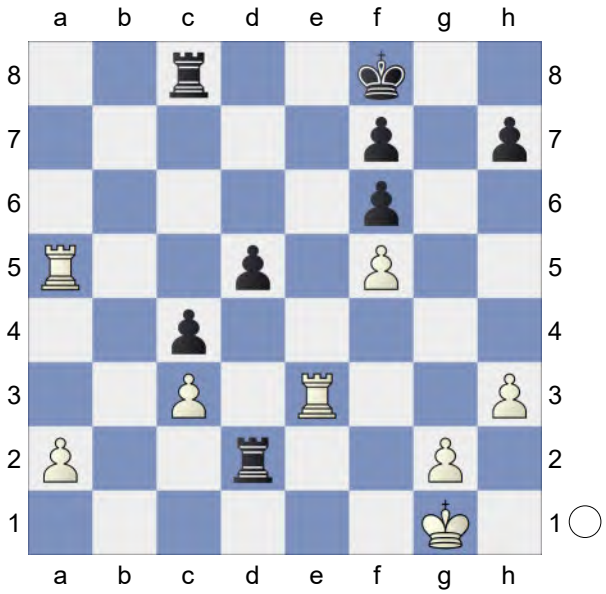
(2774) China CHN 2017 [Doe,John] 0-1 (32);
B) 14.exd4 Nxd4 licCess.org 2020 [https://lichess.org/i/Sodertalje]]
9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Be2 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 b6 12.0-0 Rd8 13.Nd2 Ba6 14.e4 Kh8 15.Nb3 Qa3 16.f4 Rac8 17.Rf3 Qe7 0.36/21
[17...Qf8= 0.00/21]
18.Qe3 Rg8 19.Rd1 Nd8 20.c5 Bxe2 21.Qxe2 bxc5 22.Na5 0.01/22
[22.Nd2!± 0.38/21]
22...Nc6= 23.Nc4 d5! 24.exd5 exd5 25.Qxe7 Nxe7 26.Nd6 Rc6 27.Re3 Rxd6 28.Rxe7∓ Endgame KRR-KRR
28...Kg7 29.Rxa7 Rb8 30.Ra5 Rb2 31.Rd3 c4



32.Rg3+ -0.24/24
[⌓32.Raxd5! 0.27/22 cxd3 33.Rxd6]
32...Kf8= 33.f5 Rd8 34.h3 Rd2 35.Re3 Rc8

(Diagram)

And now ...d4 would win. **36.Kh2 h5 37.a4 h4 38.Rb5! Kg7 39.Rb7** -0.85/24
[39.a5= -0.08/24]



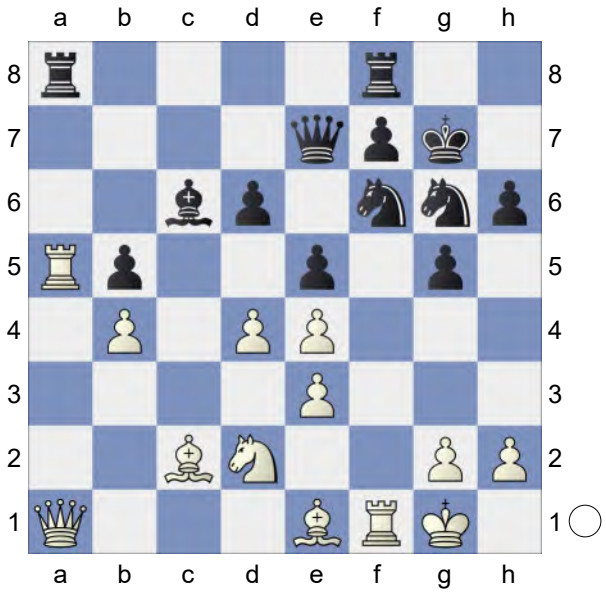
39...Rg8∓ 40.Rbe7! Rc2 -0.01/26
[40...Kh6∓ -0.69/24 41.Re2 Rxe2 42.Rxe2 Kg5]
41.Re2!= The position is equal.
41...Rxc3 Strongly threatening .. .Rd3.
42.Rd2 Rd8 White must now prevent ... d4. **43.Rd4! Rc2 44.Rg4+ Kf8 45.Rc7 d4** Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
½-½

C78
□ **Gukesh D** **2777**
■ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (9.3) 28.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and Möller Defences **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.a4 Rb8**
[7...Nxe4? 8.axb5 Ne7 9.Nxe5+- *(9.d3 Nf6+-)*]
8.d3 d6 9.Bg5N
[9.c3 h6 *(9...Bg4 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.h3 Bd7 12.Re1 Bb6 13.Nf1 Ne7 14.Ng3 Ng6 15.d4 c5 16.Be3 cxd4*

17.cxd4 Ba5 18.Re2 Bb4 19.a5 Bc6 20.Bd2 Bxd2 21.Qxd2 b4 22.Ree1 Qc7 23.h4 Rfd8 24.Rac1 Adams,M (2740)-Eljanov,P (2723) 2015 [Paunovic,Tomislav] 0-1 (50) *Qb7 25.h5 Nf4 26.dxe5 dxe5 27.Qe3 Ng4 28.Qc5 Be8 29.Bc4 Rdc8 30.Qd6 Qa7 31.Qd2 Rd8 32.Bd5 Nxd5 33.exd5 Rxd5 34.Qxd5 Qxf2+ 35.Kh1 Qxg3 36.Rc2 Bb5 37.Kg1 h6 38.Rec1 Re8 39.Rc8* Adams,M (2744)-Topalov,V (2711) Dortmund 2001 CI1-130 [Adams,Michael] ½-½ (50) *)*
10.d4 Bb6 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Qxd8+ Nxd8 13.Nxe5 Bb7 14.Na3 0-0 15.axb5 Re8 16.Nec4 Bc5 17.Be3 Nxe4 18.Bc2 Bxe3 19.Nxe3 Nd6 20.bxa6 Bxa6 21.Rfb1 Ne6 22.Nd5 Bb7 23.Ne3 Nf4 4.Nc3 a6 5. Ne5_39171 (2411)-8.Bf4 0-0 9.Re1 (1895) Santa Clara 2023 Inf11 [John Watson] 1-0 (89)]
[9.axb5 axb5 10.Nc3 h6 11.h3 0-0 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Ne7 14.Bb3 Ng6 15.c3 Qf6 16.d4 Bb6 17.Be3 Nf4 18.Bxf4 Qxf4 19.Re1 Re8 20.Qd3 Bb7 Chapter-3...b6 and Minor Sidelines [GM Davorin Kuljasevic]]

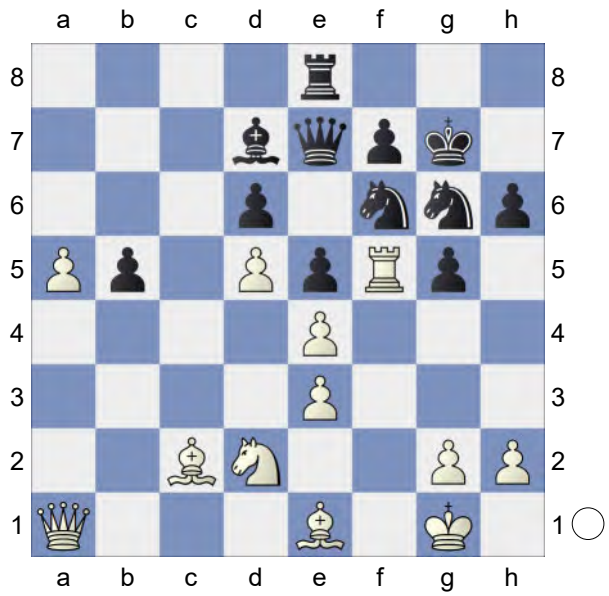
9...h6 The position is equal. **10.Bh4 g5 11.Bg3 0-0 12.c3 Bb6 13.Na3 Ne7** 0.44/20
[13...b4= -0.12/19 14.Nc4 Be6]
14.Nc2 Ng6 15.Ne3 Bxe3 16.fxe3 Kg7 17.Bc2 c5 18.axb5 axb5 19.b4
[19.d4!?]
19...cxb4 20.cxb4 Qe7 21.Ra5 Bd7 0.48/20
[21...Be6= 0.16/18]
22.d4± Bc6 23.Qa1 Rfe8! 24.Bb3 0.01/22
[24.Nd2± 0.47/19]
24...Ra8 0.50/21
[24...Nxe4? 25.dxe5 Nxg3 26.exd6+ Qf6 27.Qxf6+ Kxf6 28.hxg3+-]
[24...Bxe4= 0.01/22 is superior. 25.h4 Bd3]
25.Nd2 Rf8 26.Bc2 0.39/19
[26.Qc3!± 0.72/20 Rxa5 27.bxa5 Nxe4 28.Nxe4 Bxe4 29.Qb4]
26...Nh5 27.Be1 Nf6



28.Rf5 0.20/18
[White should play 28.d5!± 0.77/18 Bb7 29.Nb3]
28...Rxa5 29.bxa5 Re8 1.00/18
[29...Qc7± 0.36/18]
30.d5± Bd7

(Diagram)

31.Rf2 Bc8 32.Nf1 Qa7 1.79/21
[32...Ng4± 1.11/18]
33.Qa3 1.28/21
[33.Bb4+- 1.79/21]
33...Rd8 2.11/20
[33...Ng4± 1.28/21 was necessary.]
34.Bb4+- Ne8 2.35/21
[34...Qa6 1.84/20 is a better defense. 35.Bd3 Ne7]
35.Ng3 Ne7 36.Bd1 Ng8 37.Be2 Qb7 38.Bd3 Ngf6 39.Rc2 Bd7? 4.55/21



[39...h5 1.98/20 might work better. 40.a6 Qxa6]

40.Bxd6 White is clearly winning.

40...Nxd6 41.Qxd6 Qa7 15.48/24

[⌓41...Qb8 4.67/21 42.Rc7 Bg4 43.Qxe5 Re8]

42.Qxe5 Threatening mate with Nh5+.

42...Qxe3+ 43.Rf2 Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) / Black=0.27 (precise)

1-0

D02

□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**

■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2768**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (9.4) 28.01.25

[Kitty Kat]

D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2... Nf6 3 Bf4 **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c3 a5N**

[3...g6 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.Nbd2 *(5.e3 0-0 6.Be2 c5 7.Nbd2 Nc6 8.dxc5 a5 9.a4 Nh5 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Nd4 gxh4 13.Bxh5 e5 14.Nb5 Qe7 15.0-0 Be6 16.e4 Rad8 17.exd5 Rxd5 18.Bf3 Rxc5 19.Qe2 f5* Chapter Part-Games Game 4 (36)*)* 5...0-0 6.h3 *(6.e3 b6 7.h4 h5 8.Ne5 Nfd7 9.Ndf3 c5 10.Bd3 Nf6 11.Ng5 Nbd7 12.Nxg6 fxg6 13.Ne6 Qe8 14.Nc7 Qf7 15.Nxa8 Ng4 16.0-0 e5 17.Bg3 e4 18.Be2 Ndf6 19.Nc7 Bf5 20.Nb5 Ne8* Theis,B (2612)-5.Ng5 e6 6.Bd3 Ngf6_469 (2625) Manila 2023 TD 92\01 [John Watson] 1-0 (31)*)* 6...c5 7.e3 Qb6 *(7...Nfd7 8.Be2 Nc6 9.0-0 e5 10.dxe5 Ndxe5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Nf3 Nc6 13.Qb3 Na5 14.Qa3 b6 15.Rfd1 Re8 16.b4 cxb4 17.cxb4 Bxa1 18.Rxa1 Nc4 19.Qc3 Be6 20.Bg5 Qc7 21.Bh6 f6 22.Qxf6* Paehtz,E (2428)-Kosteniuk,A (2484) Monaco 2025 ½-½ (73) *)* 8.Qb3 Nc6 9.Be2 c4 10.Qxb6 axb6 11.0-0 b5 12.a3 Bf5 13.Rfe1 h6 14.g4 Be4 15.Bh2 Rfe8 16.Rad1 Rad8 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Nd2 Kosic,D (2504)-Pavlovic,M (2496) Herceg Novi 2001 CBM 083 [Finkel, Alexander] ½-½ (52) Nf6 19.Bf1 e6 20.Bg2 Bf8 21.Re2 Bd6 22.f4 Ne7 23.Rf1 Kg7 24.Bg3 h5 25.Bh4 hxg4 26.Bxf6+ Kxf6 27.hxg4 Kg7 28.e4 dxe4 29.Nxe4 Bc7 30.Nc5 Nd5 31.f5 Nf4 32.Ref2 g5 33.fxe6 Marcinkiewicz,A (2504)-10.000 Be7 11.g4_12043 (2496) Deutschland 90/41 2001 CBM 39 [Chelushkina,I; Prudnikova,S] ½-½ (52)]

4.Bf4 Bf5 5.Nbd2 h6 6.e3 e6 7.Qb3 Ra7 8.a4 The position is equal. **8...Be7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.h3 0-0 11.0-0 c6 12.Rfc1 Ne4 13.Nxe4 Bxe4 14.Qd1 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Nf6 16.Rab1 Bd6 17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.b4 axb4 19.Rxb4 Qe7 20.Qb3 Ne8 21.c4 dxc4 22.Qxc4 Nd6 23.Qd3 Rfa8 24.Bd1 Ra5 25.Rcb1 g6 26.Bc2 Rd8 27.Qc3 Rd7**

28.e4 Ra8 29.Qc5 Rad8 1.10/22
[29...Qg5± 0.34/20]
30.Bd3 0.47/21 &Bianco is more active.
[30.e5± 1.10/22 Nf5 31.Qxe7 Rxe7 32.Rxb7]
30...Qg5± White is slightly better.
31.Qxg5 hxg5 32.f3 Kg7 Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) / Black=0.08 (flawless)
½-½

E11
□ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
■ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2741**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (9.5) 28.01.25

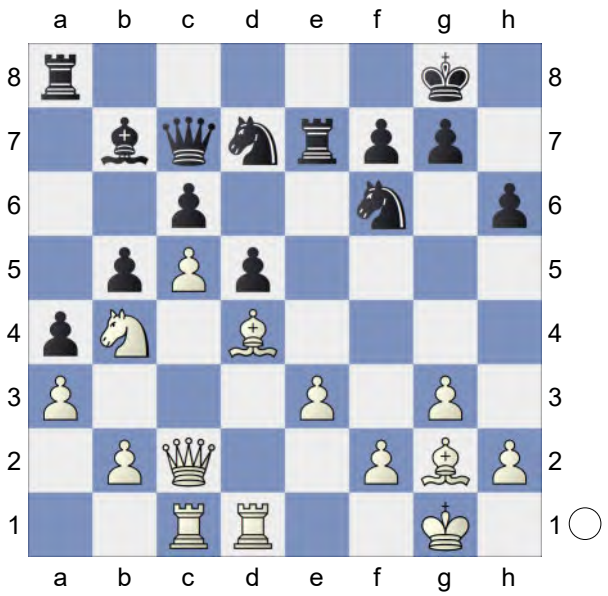
E11: Bogo-Indian In the following game, White forgot to support his own pawn chain. Gukesh had some dynamite in stock and was able to blow up Esipenko´s seemingly mighty centre. In der folgenden Partie vergaß Weiß, seine eigene Bauernkette zu unterstützen. Gukesh hatte etwas Dynamit auf Lager und konnte Esipenkos scheinbar mächtiges Zentrum sprengen. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 a5 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Qc1 Be7 8.0-0 c6 9.Rd1** The position is equal. **9...Nbd7 10.Bf4 a4**
[10...Nh5 11.Bg5 Bxg5 12.Nxg5 b5 13.c5 Qe7 14.e4 Ba6 15.Bf3 Nhf6 16.e5 Ne8 17.Qe3 h6 18.Nh3 g5 19.Be2 Ng7 20.f4 Nf5 21.Qc1 f6 22.exf6 Qxf6 23.fxg5 Nxd4 24.Bg4 Nf3+ 25.Bxf3 Esipenko,A (2692)-Gukesh,D (2699) Ankara 2022 CBM 220 [Markos,Jan] 0-1]
11.Qc2 h6 12.a3 0.07/20
[12.Na3± 0.39/19]
12...Qa5 13.Nbd2N
[13.Nc3 dxc4 14.e4 b5 15.d5 cxd5 16.exd5 exd5 17.Nd4 Bb7 18.Nf5 Rfe8 19.Bd6 Bf8 20.Bxf8 Rxf8 21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.Bxd5 Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Nf6 24.Rd6 Ra6 25.Rad1 Rxd6 26.Nxd6 Rd8 27.Qe2 Qa6 Vantika,A (2430)-Ju,W (2568) Kalkata 2023 0-1 (50) 28.Nf5 Rxd1+ 29.Qxd1 Qe6 30.Qd8+ Kh7 31.Ne3 Ne4 32.Qd4 Ng5 33.Qc5 Qd7 34.Qd5 Qxd5 35.Nxd5 Ne6 36.Nc3 Nc7 37.f4 Kg6 38.Kf2 Kf5 39.Kf3 Ke6 40.g4 Kd6 41.Ke4 Kc5 42.Ke5 Ne8 6.Ne4 Nf6 7.N2g3_64142 (2430)-R Of B,F (2568) France 2023 Inf 94 [John Watson] 0-1 (50)]
13...Nh5 14.Be3 Bd6 Inhibits Ne5.
15.Rac1 b5 16.c5 Bb8 17.Ne1 e5 0.90/23
[17...Re8± 0.48/23]
18.Nd3± Hoping for Nb4. **18...Nhf6 19.Nb4 Bb7 20.dxe5** &Bianco is more active. **20...Bxe5 21.Nf3** 0.67/23
[21.f4!± 1.27/23 Ng4 22.Nf1]
21...Rfe8 22.Nxe5 Rxe5 0.73/22
[22...Nxe5± 0.35/24 23.Bd4 Qc7]
23.Bd4! Re7 24.e3
[24.Nxd5 looks sharper. Nxd5 25.Bxd5 cxd5 26.c6]
24...Qc7 0.85/23
[24...Qd8± 0.42/23]

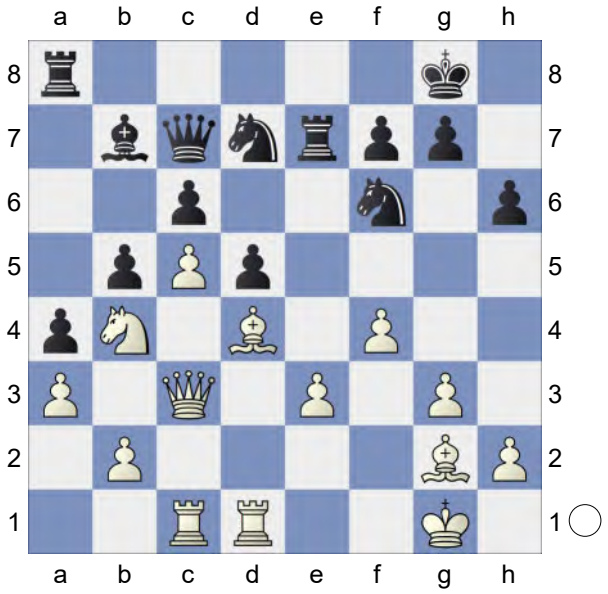
(Diagram)

25.Qc3 0.43/24
[25.Nxd5!± 0.85/23 Nxd5 26.Bxd5]
25...Ne5 26.f4 Ned7

(Diagram)

27.Nxd5! Nxd5 28.Bxd5 cxd5 29.c6 f6 30.cxb7 Qxb7 31.Qc7 Prevents

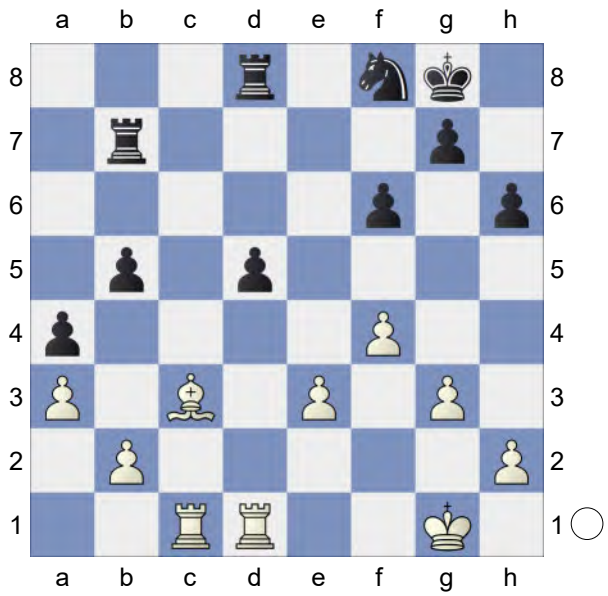




Nb6. **31...Nf8 32.Qxb7 Rxb7 33.Bc3 Rd8** 1.53/24
[⌓33...Re8 0.99/22]

(Diagram)

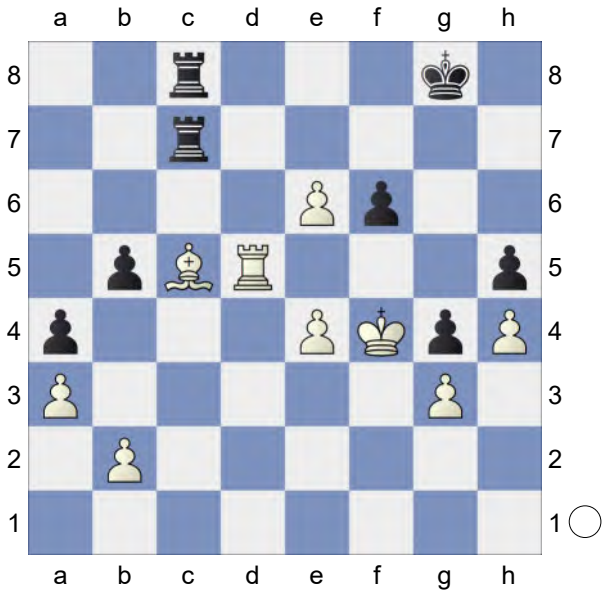
34.Ba5! Re8 35.Kf2
[35.Rxd5 Rxe3 36.Rc2 Ng6±]
35...Rd7 36.Rc5 Rde7 37.Rc3
[37.Rxb5 Rxe3 38.Kg1 *(38.Rbxd5 Re2+ 39.Kg1 Rxb2±)* 38...Re2±]
37...Rd7 38.Rcd3 Ra8 39.Bb4 Rad8

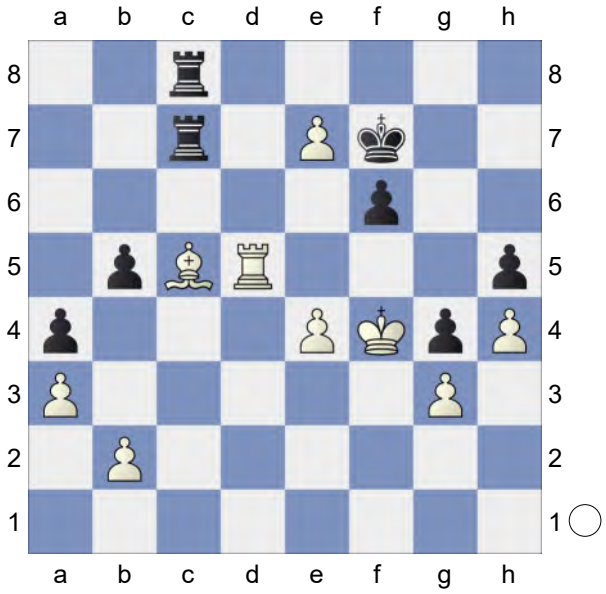


40.Ba5 0.01/23
[White should try 40.f5± 1.39/24]
40...Ra8= 41.Bb4 0.01/22
[41.Bc3± 1.45/25]
41...Rad8 42.Rc1 d4 43.e4 g5 44.Kf3↑ White is on the roll. **44...Re8 45.h4 Ne6 46.f5 Nd8** 2.14/26
[46...g4+ 1.68/25 was worth a try. 47.Kxg4 Nd8]
47.Rc8+- g4+ 48.Kf4
[48.Kxg4?! Rxe4+ 49.Kf3 Re5±]
48...h5 2.81/25
[⌓48...Kf7 1.92/25 49.Bc3 *(49.Kxg4 Rxe4+ 50.Kh5 Kg7±)* 49...Ke7]
49.Bc5 Rb7 50.Rxd4
[50.Bxd4 Rbe7 51.e5 *(51.Bxf6 Rxe4+ 52.Kg5 Nf7+ 53.Kg6 Rxc8∓)* 51...fxe5+ 52.Bxe5 Ne6+ 53.fxe6 Rxc8±]
50...Ne6+ 51.fxe6 Rxc8
Endgame KRR-KRB **52.Rd5** Kf5 is the strong threat. **52...Rbc7**

(Diagram)

53.e7! Threatens to win with Rd8+.
53...Re8
[53...Kf7?



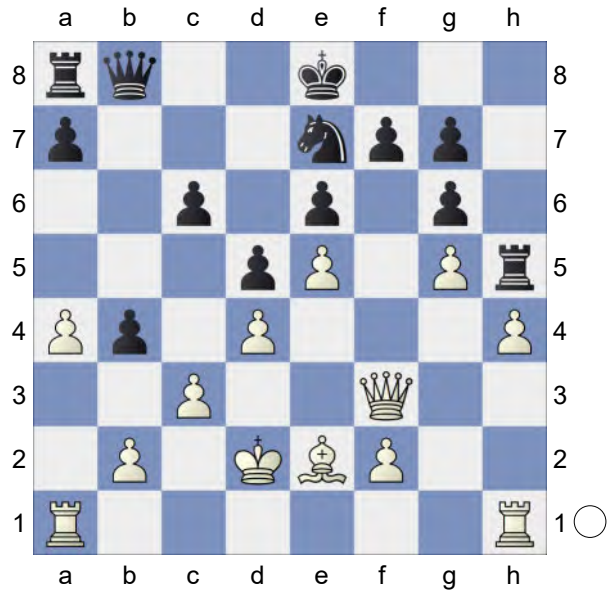


54.Rd8! Rxe7 55.Rxc8+-]
54.Rxh5 Kf7 55.Kxg4 Ke6 56.Rd5 Rcc8 57.Kf4 Rh8 5.16/25
[⌓57...Rc7 3.53/24 58.h5 Rd7]
58.h5 White is clearly winning.
58...Rhg8 59.g4 Rce8 60.Rf5 Rc8 61.Bd4 Kxe7 7.22/22
[⌓61...Rc1 4.22/19 62.Rxf6+ Kxe7]
62.Bxf6+ Ke6 63.h6 Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) / Black=0.15 (very precise)
1-0

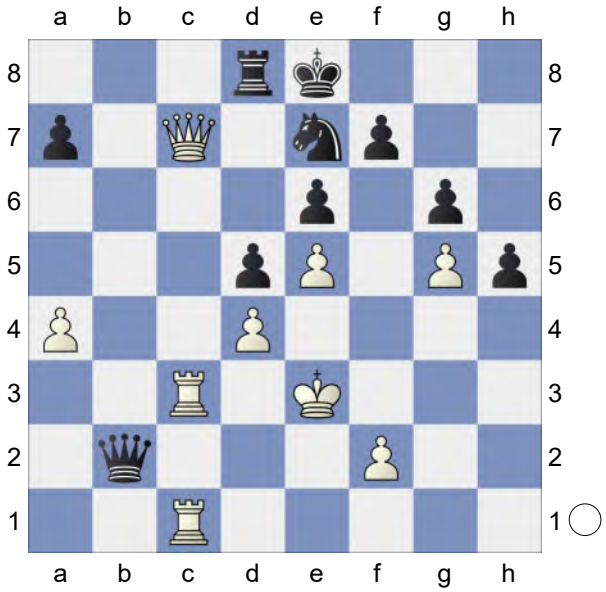
D00
□ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2717**
■ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2695**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (9.6) 28.01.25

D00: 1 d4 d5: Unusual lines **1.d4 Nf6 2.c3 d5 3.Bf4 c6 4.h3N**
[4.e3 Qb6 *(4...Bf5 5.Nd2 e6 6.Ngf3 Be7 7.h3 0-0 8.Nh4 Re8 9.Nxf5 exf5 10.Qc2 Ne4 11.Nxe4 fxe4 12.0-0-0 Nd7 13.Kb1 b5 14.f3 f5 15.g4 Bg5 16.Bxg5 Qxg5 17.f4 Qf6 18.gxf5 Qxf5 19.h4* Evdokimov, A (1506) -Colls Gelaberto,E (1817) Hastings 2023 CT-1266 [John Watson] 0-1 (34)*)* 5.Qb3 Nh5 6.Bd3 Nxf4 7.exf4 Qc7 8.g3 e6 9.Nf3 c5 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nbd2 Nc6 12.0-0 0-0 13.c4 Nb4 14.Rac1 d4 15.Bb1 Rd8 16.a3 Nc6 17.Qd3 g6 18.b4 Bf8 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.ed-Vaibhav, J corr 1920 200 Traps In The Opening [Schlosser,Michael] ½-½ (54) 19.Nb3 a5 20.b5 a4 21.Nbd2 Na5 22.c5 Bxc5 23.Qc2 b6 24.Qxa4 Qe7 25.Be4 Ra7 26.Ne5 Bxa3 27.Ra1 Bb4 28.Ndc4 Qc5 29.Nxb6 Bc3 30.Nxc8 Rxc8 31.Rab1 Qb6 32.h4 f6 33.Nf3 Nc4 Rubinstein, A-Bogoljubow,E Stockholm 1920 [JvR] ½-½ (54)]
4...Bf5 5.Nd2 e6 6.Ngf3 Bd6 7.Ne5 Qc7 8.g4 The position is equal. **8...Bg6 9.e3 Nbd7 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Qe2 b5** 0.18/19
[⌓12...g5 -0.28/20]
13.g5= Ng8
[13...Ne4 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Qg4±]
14.h4 Ne7 15.Qf3 Rh5 0.43/19
[15...e5= -0.03/20]
16.Be2± Nb6 0.57/20
[16...Rb8= 0.22/19]
17.e4 Nc4 18.a4 Nxd2! 19.Kxd2 b4

20.e5 Qb8



21.cxb4! &Bianco is more active.
21...Qxb4+ 22.Qc3 Rb8 23.Bxh5 gxh5 24.Kc2 0.47/20
[24.Rhc1± 0.87/21]
24...Nf5 25.Rhd1 0.35/23
[25.Qxb4 Rxb4 26.Ra3 Nxd4+ 27.Kb1 c5∓]
[25.Kd3± 0.74/24]
25...Nxh4 26.Ra3 -0.01/24
[26.b3± 0.47/23]
26...Nf5= 27.Qxc6+ Kd8 28.Rc3 aiming for b3. **28...Qxb2+ 29.Kd3** Strongly threatening g6! Chess con chili.
29...Ne7
[29...Nxd4!? 30.Qc7+ *(30.Kxd4 Qxf2+ 31.Kd3 Qf5+ 32.Kd2 Qxg5+ 33.Re3 Qg2+ 34.Re2 Rb2+ 35.Kc3 Qxe2=)* 30...Ke8 31.Kxd4 Qxf2+ 32.Kd3 Qf5+ 33.Kd2 Rb2+ 34.Rc2 Qf4+ 35.Ke2 Qe4+ 36.Kd2 Qf4+ 37.Ke2 Qe4+ 38.Kd2 Qf4+=]
30.Qc7+ Ke8 31.Rdc1 Rd8 0.64/24
[Better is 31...Rb7= 0.01/21 32.Qa5 f6 33.gxf6 gxf6 34.exf6 Qxf2 35.fxe7 Qf3+ 36.Kd2 Qf2+ 37.Kd1 *(37.Kd3 Qf3+ 38.Kd2 Qf2+ 39.Kd1 Qg1+ 40.Ke2 Qg2+ 41.Ke3 Qe4+ 42.Kd2 Qg2+ 43.Ke3 Qe4+ 44.Kd2 Qg2+ 45.Ke3=)* 37...Qg1+ 38.Ke2 Qg2+ 39.Ke3 *(39.Kd1 Qg1+ 40.Ke2 Qg2+ 41.Ke3 Qe4+ 42.Kd2 Qg2+ 43.Ke3 Qe4+ 44.Kd2 Qg2+ 45.Ke3=)* 39...Qe4+ 40.Kd2 Qg2+ 41.Ke3 *(41.Kd1 Qg1+ 42.Ke2 Qg2+ 43.Ke3 Qe4+ 44.Kd2 Qg2+ 45.Ke3=)* 41...Qe4+ 42.Kd2 Qg2+ 43.Ke3 *(43.Kd1 Qg1+ 44.Ke2 Qg2+ 45.Ke3=)*]
32.Ke3!± g6

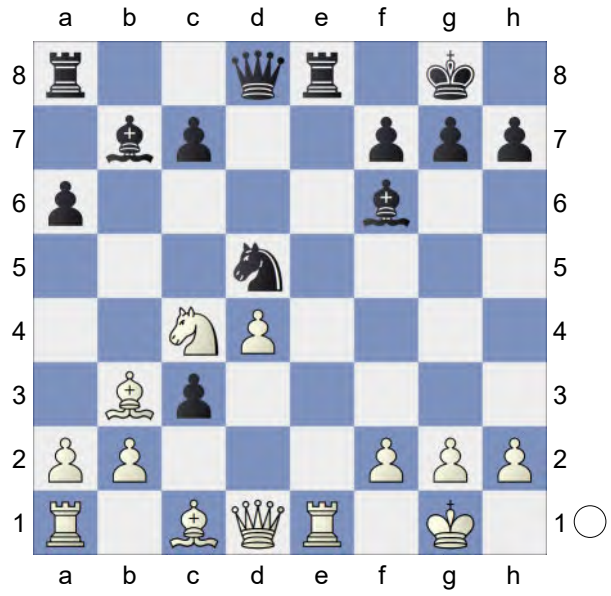


33.a5!
[Much weaker is 33.Qxa7?! Nf5+ 34.Kd3 *(34.Kf3 Qd2∓)* 34...Kf8=]
33...Rd7
[33...Rc8? gets mated. 34.Qxc8+ Nxc8 35.Rxc8+ Ke7 36.R1c7#]
34.Qc5 Hoping for a6. **34...Rb7 35.a6** 1.28/25
[⌓35.Qa3 0.95/23 And now a6 would win. Qxa3 36.Rxa3]
35...Rd7? 4.72/29 This move loses the game for Black.
[35...Rb3± 1.28/25 36.Rxb3 Qxb3+ 37.Qc3 Qb6]
36.Qa3+- White is clearly winning.
36...Qb6 11.29/25

[36...Nf5+? 37.Kd3 *(37.Kf3 Qxa3 38.Rxa3 Nxd4+ 39.Ke3 Nb5±)* 37...Qb5+ 38.Kd2]
[⩲36...Qxa3 4.69/26 37.Rxa3 h4]
37.Qa4 Rc7 is the strong threat. **37...Nf5+ 38.Kd3** White wants to mate with Rc8+. **38...Kf8 39.Rb3 Qd8 40.Rb7 Re7 41.Qb4** Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.33
1-0

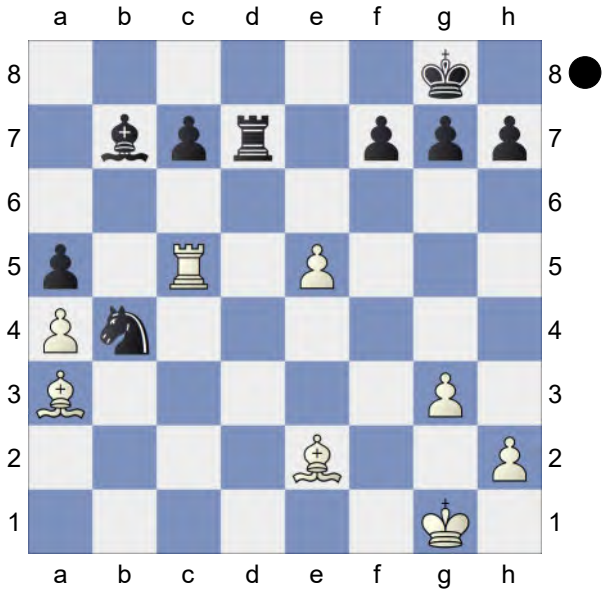
C89
□ **Wei,Yi** **2751**
■ **Erigaisi Arjun** **2801**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (9.7) 28.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C89: Closed Ruy Lopez: Marshall Attack Blatny,Pavel: 'RR: 'Inf 70/(333)'' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 Bb7 12.d4 Bf6 13.Re1 Re8 14.Na3 b4** White is slightly better. **15.Nc4 bxc3**



aiming for ...Bxd4! **16.Ne5N**
[16.Na5 Bxd4 *(16...Rb8 17.Nxb7 Rxb7 18.Rxe8+ Qxe8 19.Bxd5 cxb2* 1-0 Peter,G (2319)-Struzka,V (2215) corr VWC7/pr29 2014*; 16...Rxe1+ 17.Qxe1 Qe8 18.Qf1 Bc6 19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.Bxd5 Qxd5 21.bxc3 c5 22.Be3 cxd4 23.cxd4 a5 24.a4 Rb8 25.Rc1 h6 26.h3 Rb4 27.Rc8+ Kh7 28.Qd3+ g6 29.Rc5 Qd6 30.Rxa5 Bxd4 31.Bxd4* ½-½ (34) Solution-Matsukevich corr FRA Cup/11/1T/24 2011*)* 17.Nxb7 *(17.Rxe8+ Qxe8 18.Nxb7 cxb2 19.Bxb2 Bxb2 20.Bxd5 Bxa1 21.Qxa1 Qb5 22.Qd1 Re8 23.g3 g6 24.a4 Qe2 25.Qb3 Kg7 26.Kg2 Qe5 27.Qc4 Qa1 28.Qxc7 Qf6 29.Qc4 Re1 30.Nc5 Qa1 31.Qf4 Rg1+* 1-0 (41) Hansen,C (2605)-Hector,J (2500) Sigeman & Co 05th_150388 1997 (8) *)* 17...Qf6 18.Rf1 cxb2 19.Bxb2 Bxb2 20.Bxd5 Bxa1 21.Qxa1 Qxa1 22.Rxa1 Re5 23.Bf3 Rb8 24.a4 g5 25.h3 Rf5 26.Be4 Re5 27.Bf3 Rf5 28.Rb1 a5 29.Rb3 Rf4 30.Rb5 h6 ½-½ (39) ld7 (2455)-Fordham Hall,C (2335) 88/(280) Pancevo 2003 31.Nxa5 Re8 32.Rb1 Re5 33.Nc6 Re6 34.Bd5 Rd6 35.Ra1 Kg7 36.a5 Rxd5 37.a6 Rd2 38.a7 Rfxf2 39.a8Q ½-½ Bd7 (2455)-Fordham Hall,C (2335) 88/(280) Pancevo 2003]
16...Qd6! 17.f4 cxb2 18.Bxb2 a5 19.a4 Re7 20.Ba3 Nb4 21.Rc1 Rd8 22.Rc5 Qxd4+ 23.Qxd4 Rxd4 24.g3
[Don't go for 24.Bxf7+? Rxf7 25.Nxf7 *(25.Rxa5?* perishes. *Bxe5 26.Raxe5 h6-+)* 25...Nd3 26.Rxc7 Nxe1-+]
[24.Rd1 simplifies Rxd1+ 25.Bxd1 Bxe5 26.fxe5 Rd7 27.Bb3]
24...Rd2 0.34/23
[24...g5= -0.07/22 deserves consideration.]

25.Rd1 Rxd1+ The position is equal. **26.Bxd1 Bxe5 27.fxe5 Rd7 28.Be2**



Rb5! is the strong threat. **28...Rd2 29.Rxc7 Rxe2 30.Rxb7 Kf8 31.Bxb4+ axb4 32.Rxb4 Ra2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

½-½

C88

□ **Erigaisi Arjun** **2801**

■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (10.1) 29.1.25

[Kitty Kat]

C88: Closed Ruy Lopez: Anti-Marshall Systems

Navara,David: 'The match had been very tense. Many people including me expected Magnus to be a clear favourite, but Sergey and his team prepared excellently. The tie-break was eagerly awaited by the chess world.

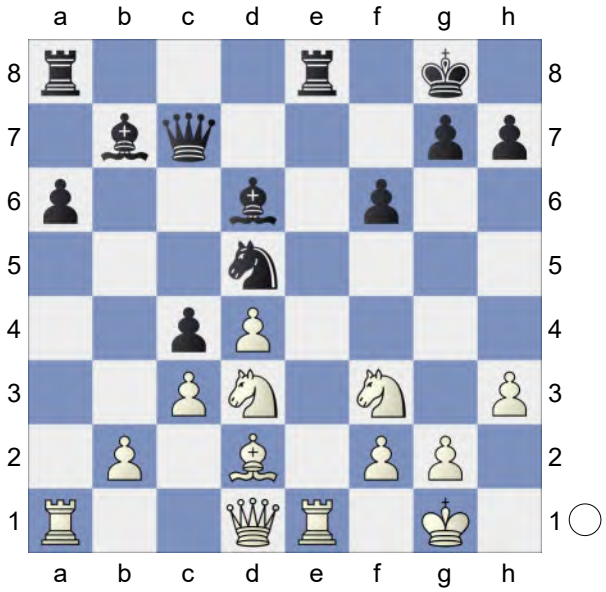
' 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1

[6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.Nc3 Nb8 *(9...Na5 10.Ba2 c5 11.Bg5 Be6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd5 Nc6 14.c3 g6 15.a4 Bg7 16.Ne3 Bd7 17.Bd5 Qc7 18.Qb3 Rab8 19.axb5 axb5 20.Ra6 Ne7 21.Rfa1 Nc8 22.h3 h6 23.Nh4 Ne7 24.Ra7* 1-0 (50) Jiang,L (2352)-Wongso,S (2069) Las Vegas 1000 GM op 2023 (1) *)* 10.Ne2 c5 11.Ng3 Nc6 12.c3 Rb8 13.h3 a5 14.a4 b4 15.Re1 Be6 16.Bc4 h6 17.Be3 Qc8 18.Qe2 Rd8 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.d4 bxc3 ½-½ (37) Karjakin,S (2772)-Carlsen,M (2853) World-ch Carlsen-Karjakin Tiebreak rapid 2016 (1)]

6...b5 7.Bb3 0-0N

[7...d6 8.d4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.c3 dxc3 11.Nxc3 0-0 12.a4 Bb7 13.axb5 axb5 14.Rxa8 Bxa8 15.Bg5 b4 A8) RL – 8th Move Alternati-8th Move Alternatives – 8.]

8.h3 Bb7 9.d3 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nbd2 Nd4 12.Nxe5 c5 13.c3 Nxb3 14.axb3 Re8 15.Ndf3 Bd6 16.d4 Qc7 17.Bd2 f6 18.Nd3 c4 19.bxc4 bxc4



20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.dxc5 Qxc5 22.Nd4 Rxe1+ 23.Qxe1 Nc7 Prevents Qe6+ **24.Qe2 Re8 25.Qg4 Bc8** Inhibits Nf5. **26.Qg3 Nb5 27.Be3**

[27.Bh6!? Re7 28.Be3±]
27...Qd5 Against Ne6 **28.Nc2** 0.15/22
[28.Qf3± 0.55/22 feels stronger. Qd7 29.Nc2]
28...Nd6= 29.Nb4 Qe6 30.Qf4
[30.Nxa6? perishes. Nf5 31.Qf4 Bxa6-+]
30...g5 31.Qg4 Nf5 32.Bd2 -0.07/23
[32.Bd4± 0.36/21]
32...Qf7 The position is equal. **33.Re1** Strongly threatening Rxe8+.
[Don't play 33.Nxa6 Nh4 34.Qg3 Bb7∓]
33...Rxe1+ 34.Bxe1 Qe6 35.Bd2 Bb7 36.Nc2 Qe4 37.Qxe4 Bxe4 38.Ne3 Nxe3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

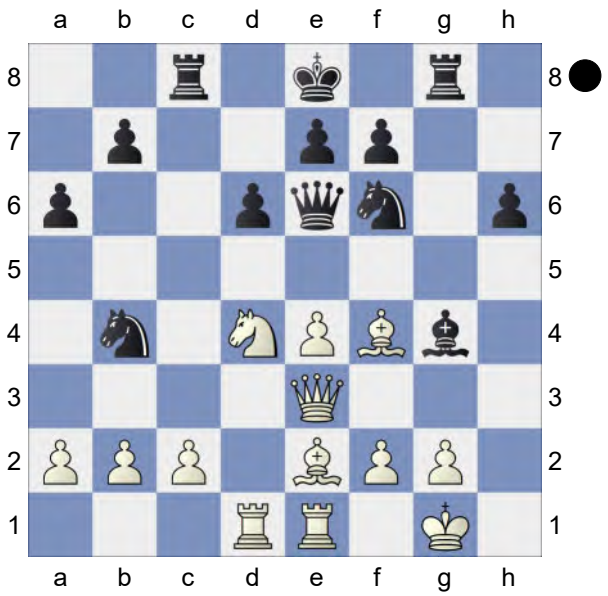
	B50
□ **Harikrishna,Pentala**	**2695**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano**	**2803**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (10.2) 29.1.25

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qe3N**
[6.Qd3 Nf6 7.Nd5 *(7.Be2 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.Nd5 0-0 10.Rd1 Rb8 11.c3 b5 12.Be3 Re8 13.h3 Nd7 14.a4 bxa4 15.Qd2 Nc5 16.Bxc5 dxc5 17.Rxa4 a5 18.Qf4 Bd7 19.Ra2 Rb7 20.Qe3 e6 21.Nf4 Bh6* Dreisch,J (1921)-Zepf,U (1797) BdF-Schachserver 2017 Fernschach2025 [Stockfish17] 1-0 (48) *)* 7...e6 *(7...Nd7 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 Nc5 10.Qe3 g5 11.Bg3 e6 12.Nc3 g4 13.Nd4 e5 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.h3 gxh3 16.0-0-0 hxg2 17.Bxg2 Qb6 18.Kb1 Rb8 19.b3 Be6 20.Bh3 a5 21.f4 a4 22.Bxe6* Xiong,J (2692) - Hakobyan,A (2613) Chess.com INT 2022 1-0 (47) *)* 8.Nxf6+ Qxf6
A) 9.Be2 h6 10.0-0 Be7 11.c3 0-0 12.a4 *(12.Be3 b5 13.a4 Bd7 14.axb5 axb5 15.b4 Rxa1 16.Rxa1 Nxb4 17.Qd2 Nc6 18.Bxb5 Rb8 19.Bf1 Rc8 20.e5 Qf5 21.exd6 Bf6 22.Rd1 Na5 23.Nd4 Qd5 24.Ne2 Qc6 25.Qa2 Nc4 26.Bd4 e5* Dragnev,V (2576) - Pranav,A (2510) Chess.com INT 2023 ½-½ (63) *)* 12...Rd8 13.Be3 d5 14.Rfd1 dxe4 15.Qxe4 Bd7 16.Bb6 Be8 17.Bxd8 Bxd8 18.h3 Bc7 19.Rac1 Rb8 20.b4 Ne7 21.b5 axb5 22.Bxb5 Nc6 23.Nd4 e5 Vakhlamov,I (2413)-De Boer,E (2415) Chess, com INT 2024 1-0 (35);
B) 9.c3 Be7 10.Be2 Qg6 11.0-0 e5 12.Nd2 f5 13.Bf3 0-0 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Bd5+ Kh8 16.Qg3 Qh5 17.Nc4 Rf6 18.Qg5 Qe2 19.Qe3 Qh5 20.Qg5 Qe8 Grabinsky,A (2405)-Cervantes Landeiro,T (2253) Saint Louis 2023 1-0 (43)]
6...g6 7.Be2 Bh6 8.Qd3 White has an edge. **8...Bg7 9.0-0 Bg4 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Rc8 12.Qd2 Bxc3 13.Qxc3 Nf6 14.Qb3 Qd7 15.h3 Be6 16.Qc3 g5 17.Rad1 g4 18.hxg4 Bxg4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Qe3** aiming for e5.
[20.Bxh6 Bh5 21.Rfe1 Nxe4∓]
20...Qe6 21.Rfe1 Nb4 22.Nd4
[22.Bxh6? Nxc2 23.Qd2 Nxe1 24.Rxe1 Nxe4-+]

(Diagram)

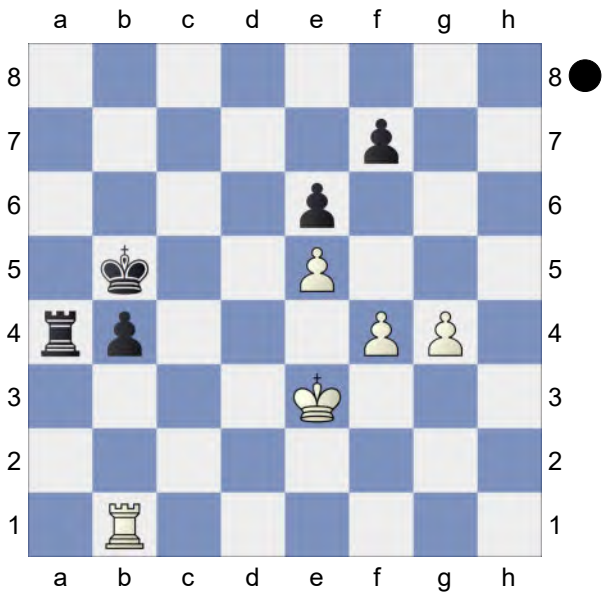
22...Nxc2! 23.Nxe6 Nxe3 24.Bxe3 Bxe6 25.f3 Bxa2 26.Rc1 Kd7



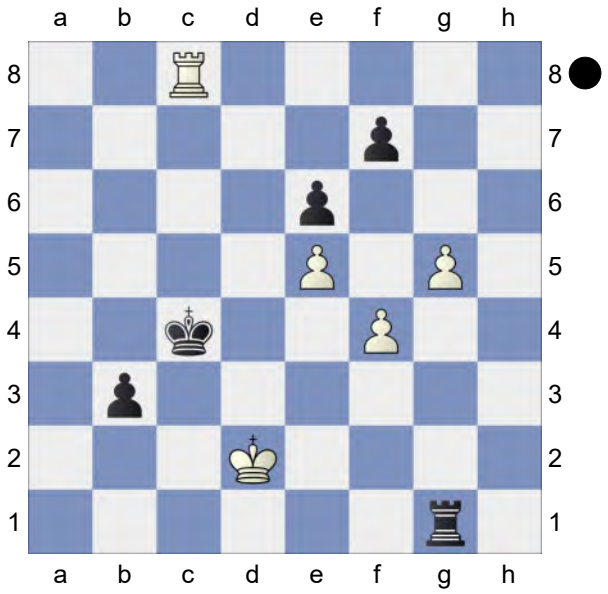
27.Bxh6 d5 28.e5 Rxc1 29.Rxc1 Ne8 30.Be3 Nc7 31.f4 -0.51/23
[White should play 31.Bd3= 0.01/23]
31...e6 -0.01/24
[Better is 31...Ne6!∓ -0.51/23]
32.Kf2= Bc4 Strongly threatening ... Bxe2. **33.Bxc4 dxc4 34.Rxc4** Endgame KRB-KRN **34...Nd5** Hoping for ...Rxg2+! **35.Bd2 b5 36.Rc1 b4 37.Ra1 Ra8 38.Ra5** -1.00/24
[38.Rc1∓ -0.45/22]
38...Kc6 39.Be3 Nxe3 40.Kxe3∓ KR-KR **40...Kb6 41.Ra1 a5 42.g4 Kb5** -1.41/20
[⩲42...a4 -0.98/23 43.Kd4 Kb5]
43.b3 -1.00/25
[⩲43.Kd3 -1.41/20]
43...a4 44.bxa4+ Rxa4 45.Rb1

(Diagram)

Ra3+! 46.Kd2 Rg3 -0.92/26
[Worse is 46...Rf3 47.f5∓]
[46...Kc4-+ -2.42/25 and Black stays clearly on top. White must now prevent ...Rd3+. 47.Rc1+ Rc3]
47.g5 b3 And now ...Kb4 would win. **48.Rh1 Kc4 49.Rh8 Rg1** Threatens to



win with ...b2. **50.Rc8+ Kd4 51.Rd8+ Kc4** 0.01/24
[Black should try 51...Ke4∓ -0.89/28 (→ ...b2) 52.Kc3 Kxf4]
52.Rc8+!=



Kd4 -0.01/25
[52...Kd5!∓ -0.93/28 53.Rd8+ Ke4]
53.Rd8+! Ke4 54.Kc3 Rg4 -0.06/30
[54...Kxf4∓ -0.91/29 55.Rf8 Rg3+ 56.Kb2 Kxe5 57.Rxf7 Kd4]
55.Kxb3
[Much weaker is 55.Rd4+ Ke3 56.Rb4 Rxf4 57.Rxb3 Rf5∓]

55...Rxf4 56.Rg8 Kxe5 next ...Ke4 is good for Black. **57.Kc3! Ra4** -0.02/29
[57...Kf5!∓ -0.52/30]
58.Rg7! The position is equal. **58...Ra3+ 59.Kd2 Ra7 60.Kc3 Ra3+ 61.Kd2 Ra2+ 62.Kd3 Rf2 63.Ke3 Rf1 64.Ke2 Rf5 65.Ke3 Kd6 66.Ke4 Rf1 67.Rh7 Rf5 68.Rg7 Ke7** Black had all chances to win. Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.16 (very precise)
½-½

D32

□ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2741**
■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **2717**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (10.3) 29.1.25
[kitty Kat]

D32: Tarrasch Defence: Sidelines and lines without g3
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be6 7.e3 c4 8.Bxf6N
[8.Be2 Nbd7 *(8...Bb4 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nd2 Nc6 11.a3 Be7 12.b3 cxb3 13.Nxb3 Rc8 14.Nc5 Bxc5 15.dxc5 h6 16.Bh4 Ne5 17.Bg3 Ned7 18.Bd6 Re8 19.Qd4 b6 20.cxb6 Nxb6 21.Bb4 Ne4 22.Rac1 Nd6 23.Nb5* 1-0 (72) Sunilduth Lyna,N (2656)-Nitish,B (2425) Abu Dhabi op 29th 2023 (6) *)* 9.0-0 Bb4
A) 10.Ne5 0-0 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Bf3 Kg7 14.a4 *(14.a3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Bf5 16.Re1 Rfe8 17.h3 Bd3 18.Be2 Be4 19.Bf3 Bd3 20.a4 b6 21.Ra2 a6 22.Rb2 Rab8 23.Be2 Bg6 24.Qa1 b5 25.axb5 axb5 26.Qa3 Be4 27.Ra1 Rg8 28.Qa7 Rb7* 0-1 (98) Grau,J (2394)-Bucsa,I (2390) corr ESP/MG6 6 (ESP) 2022 *)* 14...b6 15.Ne2 Bd6 16.Nc3 Bb4 17.Qc2 Rac8 18.Rfd1 f5 19.g3 a6 20.Ne2 Bd6 21.b3 b5 22.axb5 axb5 23.bxc4 Rxc4 24.Qb3 Rfc8 (36) Model Games-Ding Liren - Nihal Sarin,c;
B) 10.Nd2 0-0 11.e4 Bxc3 12.bxc3 dxe4 13.Nxe4 h6 14.Bh4 g5 15.Nxf6+ Nxf6 16.Bg3 Nd5 17.Qc2 b5 18.Bf3 Rc8 19.Rae1 b4 20.Bxd5 Qxd5 21.cxb4 c3 22.a3 Qxd4 0-1 (39) Kjartansson,G (2453)-Sebenik,M (2538) EU-ch Blitz Katowice 2022 (9)]
8...gxf6 0.62/20
[8...Qxf6= 0.09/19 9.a3 Nd7]
9.g3 Bb4 White is slightly better.
10.Bg2 Nc6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Ne2 0.58/19
[12.Nh4± 1.04/18]
12...Rc8± 13.Nh4 aiming for Nf4.
13...Kh8 14.a3 Be7 1.13/20
[14...Ba5± 0.68/20 might be stronger.]
15.e4 0.73/18
[⌓15.Qc2 1.13/20]
15...Rg8 1.48/18
[Black should try 15...f5 0.73/18 16.Nxf5 *(16.exf5 Bd7=; 16.exd5 Bxd5 17.Bxd5 Qxd5=)* 16...Bxf5 17.exf5 Bf6]
16.Re1 0.87/21
[⌓16.Qc2! 1.48/18]
16...Bf8 17.Qc2 b5 18.Rad1
[18.exd5 is more complex. Bxd5 19.Rad1 b4 20.Bxd5 Qxd5 21.Nf4]
18...Ne7 19.Nc3 a6 1.35/20
[⌓19...Bg4 0.87/20]
20.exd5± Nxd5 21.Be4 0.76/20
[⌓21.Nxd5 1.47/21 Bxd5 22.Be4]
21...Nf4 1.85/19
[21...Nxc3± 0.76/20 22.bxc3 *(22.Qxc3 Bg4=)* 22...Rg5]
22.Bxh7 Rg5 23.Be4 Qd7 24.Kh1

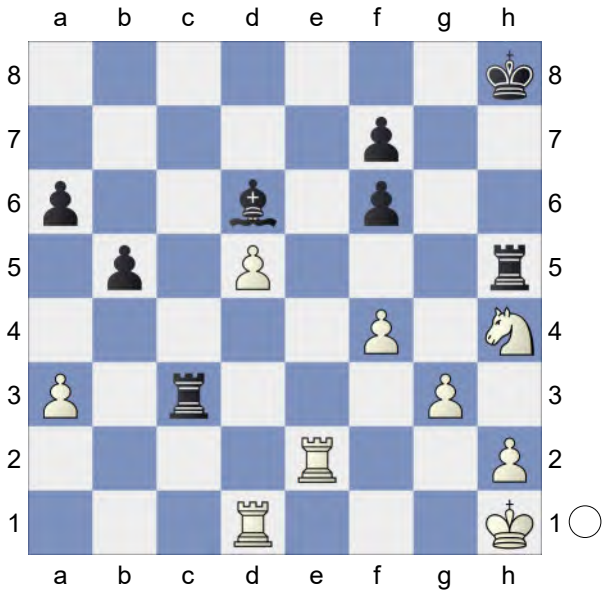
0.99/20
[⌓24.Qd2 1.57/19 Bd6 25.Ng2 Nxg2 26.Bxg2]
24...Rh5 25.Bf3 0.54/21
[25.Rg1± 1.21/20]
25...Rh6 1.20/20
[25...Bg4!± 0.54/21 26.Re3 Bxf3+ 27.Nxf3 *(27.Rxf3 Nd3±)* 27...Nd3]
26.d5 White is more active. **26...Bh3 27.Be4 Rh5** Dodges Bf5 **28.Ne2↑** Black is under strong pressure.
28...Nxe2 29.Qxe2 Re5 Strongly threatening ...Rce8. **30.f4** 0.12/21
[White should play 30.Nf3!± 1.11/21 Ree8 31.Qd2]
30...Bg4= 31.Qf1 -0.01/21
[31.Qg2!± 0.48/20 Ree8 32.Bf3]
31...Rh5 0.74/20
[31...Rxe4!= -0.01/21 remains equal. 32.Rxe4 Bxd1 33.Qxd1 Kg8]
32.Bf3± Black must now prevent Qe2.
32...c3 1.81/22
[32...Bh3± 0.67/21 33.Ng2 Rh6]
33.bxc3 Qe2 is the strong threat.
33...Rxc3? 3.29/21 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[33...Bh3± 1.50/21 was worth a try. 34.Qd3 Rh6]
34.Bxg4+- Qxg4 35.Qe2 1.75/23
[⌓35.d6 3.23/23 Qd7 36.Qe2 Qc6+ 37.Ng2]
35...Qxe2 36.Rxe2 Bd6

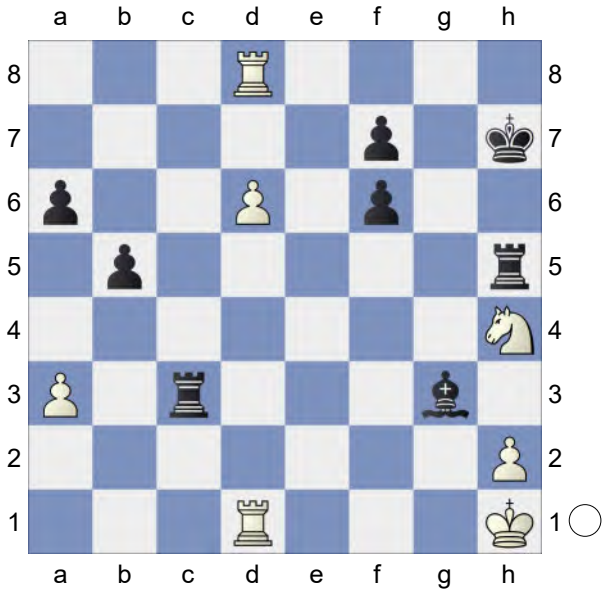
(Diagram)

37.Re8+! Kh7 3.29/20
[37...Kg7 1.83/25 might work better.]
38.Rd8 Bxf4 39.d6 Bxg3

(Diagram)

40.d7! Rc8 would now be deadly.
40...Rxh4

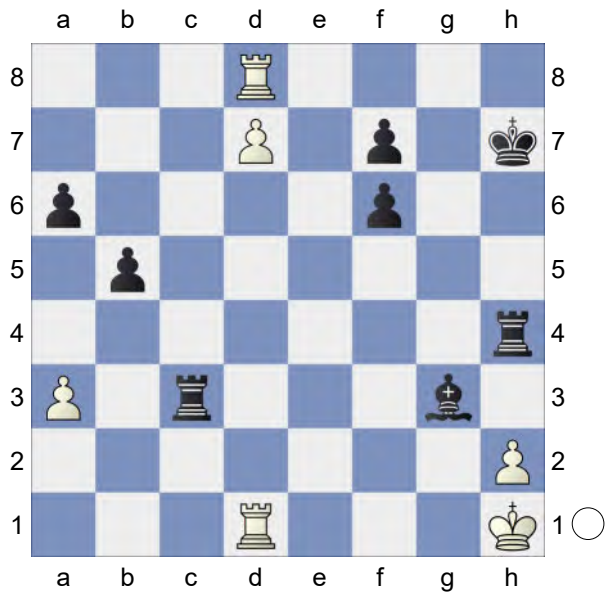




[Stronger than 40...Bxh4 41.Rc8 f5 42.Rxc3]
[40...Bxh2 41.Rh8+]

(Diagram)

41.Rc8!
[Avoid the trap 41.Rh8+? Kxh8 42.d8Q+ Kg7-+]
41...Rxh2+ 42.Kg1 Rxa3 43.d8Q Prevents Bc7
[43.d8R? Rha2 44.Rh8+ Kg6∓]



43...Be5 44.Qg8+ Kh6 45.Qf8+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.56
[45.Qxf7 Rg3+ 46.Kxh2 *(46.Kf1 Rh1+ 47.Ke2 Rh2+ 48.Kf1 Rh1+ 49.Ke2 Rh2+ 50.Kf1=)* 46...Rg7+ 47.Kh1 Rxf7±]
1-0

B20
□ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
■ **Gukesh D** **2777**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (10.4) 29.1.25

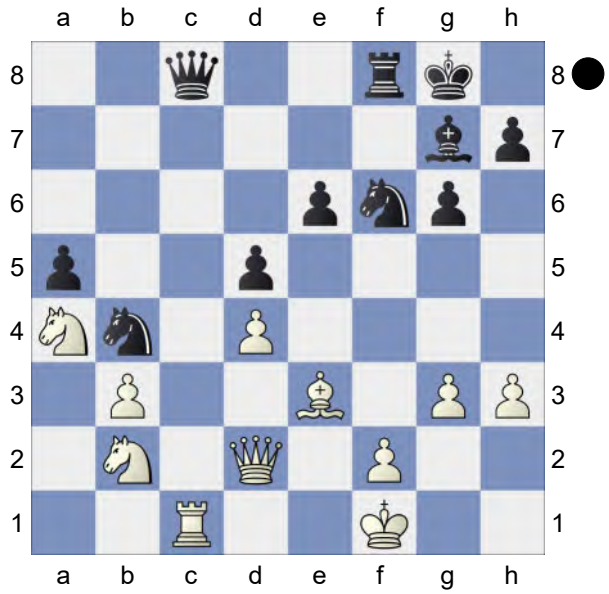
B20: Sicilian: Unusual White 2nd moves
1.e4 d6 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 g6 4.c3 Bg7 5.Ne2 Nc6 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4
[Of course not 7.Nxd4 Qb6=]
7...Nf6
[7...Bg4 8.f3 Bd7 9.Nbc3 h5 10.h3 Rc8 11.Be3 b5 12.Qd2 b4 13.Nd1 a5 14.0-0 h4 15.g4 Nf6 16.Nf2 a4 17.b3 Na5 18.Rab1 axb3 19.axb3 Bb5 20.Nd3 Qb6 21.Rfd1 Nd7 22.Bf1 Bruzon Batista,L (2614)-Dominguez Perez,L (2677) Cuba 2007 CI1-130 [RR]]
8.Nbc3N
[8.0-0 0-0 9.Nbc3 Ne2 Variation-Advanced Theory [RCA]]
8...0-0 9.h3 Bd7 White is slightly better.
10.0-0 Rb8 11.Be3 b5 12.b3 b4 13.Na4 e6 14.Nb2 a5 15.a4 bxa3 16.Rxa3 Nb4 0.44/23
[16...Qe7= 0.06/20]
17.Nc3 0.10/21
[17.Qd2± 0.44/23]
17...Bb5 0.79/23
[17...Qc8= 0.10/21 18.Qd2 e5]
18.Re1 0.11/23
[18.Nxb5± 0.79/23 Black must now prevent Qe2. Rxb5 19.Qe2]
18...d5 0.59/22
[18...Ba6!= 0.11/23]
19.e5 Nd7 20.Qd2 -0.01/24
[White should try 20.Nxb5± 0.52/23 Rxb5 21.Qd2]
20...Ba6= 21.Rc1 Rc8 22.Raa1 Qb6 23.Nca4 Qb8 24.Bf1 -0.48/25
[24.Nc3= -0.01/22 feels stronger.]
24...Bxf1∓ 25.Kxf1 f6 26.exf6 Nxf6 ...Ne4 is the strong threat. **27.Rxc8! Qxc8**
[Reject 27...Rxc8?! 28.Nc5=]
28.Rc1? -2.41/22
[28.Nc3∓ -0.54/24]

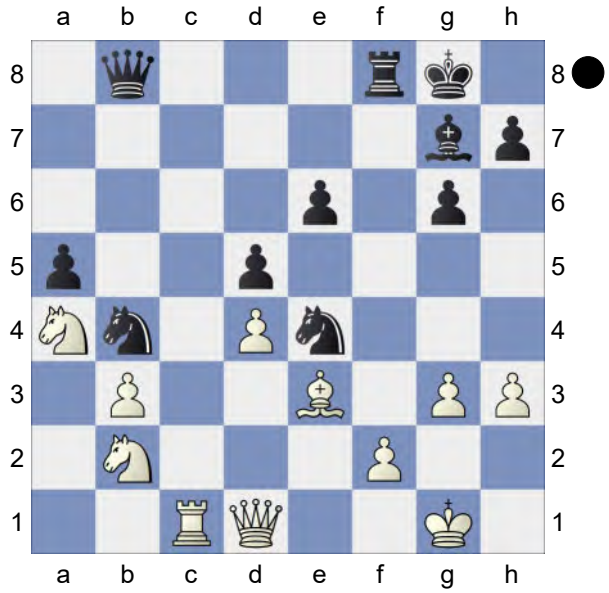
(Diagram)

This move loses the game for White.
28...Ne4!-+ 29.Qd1 Qb8 Strongly threatening ... Qxg3. **30.Kg1**

(Diagram)

Nxg3! 31.Nc5
[31.Qg4 Nf5]
31...Nf5 32.Qg4 Qe8 Inhibits Nd7. **33.Nbd3 Nc6** Prevents Ne5. **34.Nf4**





Bxd4 Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
0-1

		B90
☐	**Abdusattorov,Nodirbek**	**2768**
■	**Sarana,Alexey**	**2677**

Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (10.5) 29.1.25

B90: Sicilian Najdorf: Unusual White 6th moves, 6 Be3 Ng4 and 6 Be3 e5 After a 122 move game that we witnessed yesterday, the players might have been a tad tired. (Maybe that showed as Magnus almost dozed off to sleep in the middle of the game today!) But for Vishy this was maybe the most important game of the match. With the White pieces he has been successful in putting pressure on Carlsen in the last three games. After the two white's, this was Carlsen's black after almost three days. Team Magnus had done their homework. Carlsen had a stoic face as the game began. Maybe he was determined not to give any chances to the challenger today. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Nb3 e6 7.g4 b5 8.a3 Bb7** White has an edge. **9.Bg2 Nc6 10.g5 Nd7 11.h4** -0.13/20

[⌓11.0-0 0.20/18]

[11.f4 h6 12.h4 hxg5 13.hxg5 Rxh1+ 14.Bxh1 Nb6 15.a4 b4 16.Ne2 a5 17.Nbd4 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 g6 19.b3 Rc8 20.Qe2 e5 21.Nb5 Be7 22.Bb2 Ba6 23.fxe5 Bxg5 24.Rd1 Bxb5 25.axb5 Qc7 Gan-Erdene,S (2437)-Vivaan Vishal Shah (2296) Doha QAT 2024 [Kitty Kat] 1-0 (61)]

11...Rc8= 12.Qe2N

[12.f4 h6 13.Be3 hxg5 14.hxg5 Rxh1+ 15.Bxh1 Nb6 16.Qe2 Nc4 17.0-0-0 Qc7 18.Bf2 g6 19.e5 dxe5 20.Ne4 Be7 21.Bc5 Nd4 22.Nxd4 exd4 23.Bxe7 Kxe7 ½-½ (23) Anand, V (2792) -Carlsen,M (2863) Sochi 2014 [Sagar Shah]]

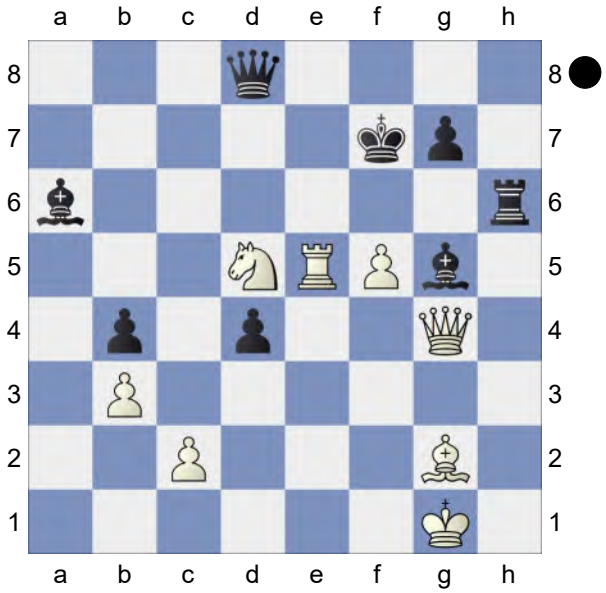
12...Be7 13.f4 h6 14.0-0 hxg5 15.hxg5 Nb6 16.a4 Nc4 0.24/21

[16...b4∓ -0.33/20 17.Nd1 Nd7]

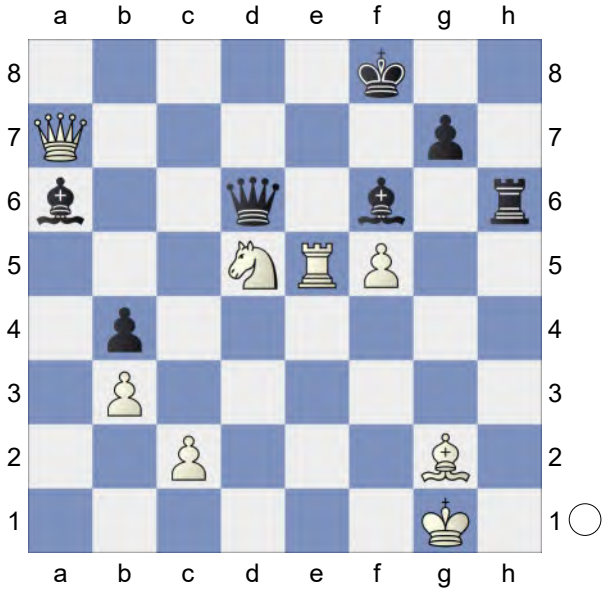
17.axb5 axb5 18.Qf2 b4 19.Nd1 Ra8 20.Rxa8 Qxa8 21.Nd2 Nxd2 22.Bxd2 Bd8! 23.b3 Qa5

[23...Ba6!? 24.Re1 e5∓]

24.Be3 Ba6 25.Re1 e5! 26.Qd2 Bc7 0.45/22
[Black should try 26...exf4= -0.25/21 27.Qxd6 fxe3 28.Qxc6+ Kf8 29.Nxe3 Qb6 30.Qxb6 Bxb6]
27.f5 -0.63/22
[27.Qd5!± 0.45/22 Bb7 28.fxe5 Qxd5 29.exd5 Nxe5 30.Nf2]
27...Nd4∓ 28.Bf2 Rh5 29.g6 Bd8 0.01/22
[29...Bb6∓ -0.65/21 30.Ne3 fxg6]
30.gxf7+ -0.56/23
[30.Bxd4= 0.01/22 exd4 31.e5 *(31.gxf7+ Kxf7 32.Bf3 Rg5+ 33.Kh1 Qe5∓)* 31...dxe5 32.Qf4]
30...Kxf7 Hoping for ...Bh4. **31.Ne3** -1.10/22
[31.Bxd4 exd4 32.Bf3 *(32.Qxd4? Bb6-+)* 32...Rg5+ 33.Kh1 Qe5∓]
[31.Nb2!∓ -0.49/23]
31...Bg5 0.01/23
[31...Bh4!∓ -1.10/22 Strongly threatening ...Qd8. 32.Nd5 Qc5]
32.Qd1= Rh8 33.Qg4 Qd8 34.Nd5 aiming for Bxd4. **34...Rh6** 1.20/24
[34...Nxc2? 35.Bb6! Qd7 36.Rd1+- *(36.Qxg5 Nxe1 37.f6 Rg8=)*]
[34...Bb7= 0.09/24 keeps the balance.]
35.Bxd4± Really sharp!
[35.Nxb4?! Bd2 36.Ra1 *(36.Nxa6 Bxe1 37.Be3 Qh4∓)* 36...Ne2+ 37.Kf1 Ng3+ 38.Kg1 Ne2+ 39.Kf1 Ng3+ 40.Kg1 Ne2+=]
35...exd4 36.e5 0.01/20
[Don't play 36.Nxb4?! Bd2! 37.e5 *(37.Nc6? Qb6-+)* 37...dxe5 38.Rxe5 Be3+ 39.Rxe3 dxe3 40.Nxa6 Qd2 41.Qc4+ Kf8 42.Qc8+ Ke7 43.f6+ Rxf6 44.Qc7+ Kf8 45.Qc8+ Kf7 46.Qc4+ Kg6 47.Qg4+ Kh7 48.Qh3+ Kg8 49.Qc8+ Rf8 50.Qc4+ Kh8 51.Qh4+ Kg8 52.Qc4+ Kh8 53.Qh4+ Kg8 54.Qc4+=]
[36.Ra1± 1.02/23 Bb5 37.Bf1]
36...dxe5= 37.Rxe5

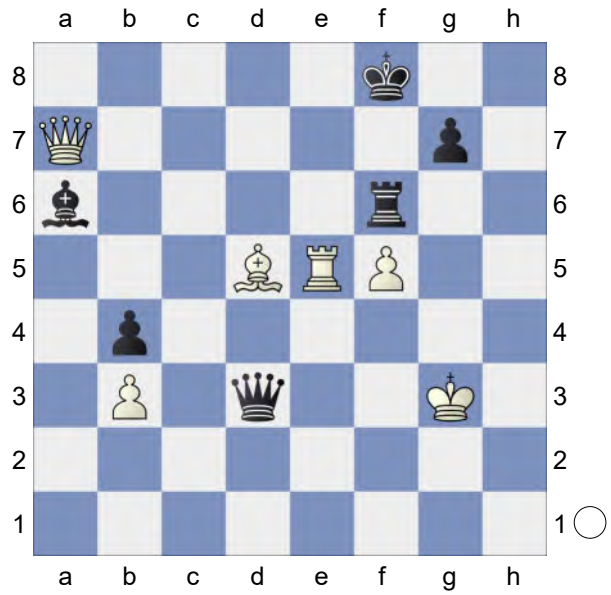


Qd6!⇄ Black puts up resistance
38.Qxd4
[38.Re6 Qh2+]
38...Bf6 This bishop pair is nice.
39.Qa7+ Kf8? 4.78/22
[39...Kg8± 0.54/27 40.Nxf6+ Rxf6 41.Qa8+ Kh7]



This costs Black the game. **40.Nxf6!+- Qd1+ 41.Kf2 Qxc2+ 42.Kg3 Rxf6**

43.Bd5 Qd3+ #21/23
[43...Bb7+- 4.73/25]



44.Re3! Rg6+ 45.Kf4 Qf1+ 46.Bf3 Rg4+ 47.Kxg4 Qg1+ 48.Kf4 Qh2+ 49.Ke4 15.08/22
[⌓49.Kg5 #14/21 Bb7 50.Bxb7 Qg1+ 51.Kh5 Qh2+ 52.Kg4 Qg1+ 53.Kh3 Qf1+ 54.Kg3]
49...Qh4+ 50.Kd5 White wants to mate with Qa8+. **50...Qd8+ 51.Kc6** Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.61
1-0

C55

□ **Wei,Yi** **2751**
■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (10.6) 29.1.25
[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.Nc3 d6 6.a3 Bg4N**
[6...0-0 7.h3 *(7.Be3 Be6 8.Nd5 Bxd5 9.exd5 Nb8 10.Ba2 Nbd7 11.d4 e4 12.Nd2 b5 13.Qe2 a6 14.Bg5 Nb6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.c3 Re8 17.Nxe4 Bxd4 18.cxd4 f5 19.0-0 Rxe4 20.Qc2 Qd7 21.Rac1 Re7* Firouzja,A (2767)-Carlsen,M (2832) Paris 2024 0-1 (60)*)* 7...Nd7 *(7...Nd4 8.Nxd4 exd4 9.Ne2 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.0-0 c5 12.Nf4 Nxf4 13.Bxf4 Be6 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Qg4 Rf6 16.Be5 Rg6 17.Qe4 Qd5 18.Rae1 Rd8 19.Re2 Qxe4 20.Rxe4 Bd6 21.Rfe1 Kf7 22.f4* Idani,P (2603)-Tahbaz,A (2432) Doha QAT 2024 [Kitty Kat] 1-0 (64)*; 7...Be6 8.Nd5 Nb8 9.Qe2 Nxd5 10.exd5 Bf5 11.Be3 Nd7 12.Nd2 Bg6 13.g4 f5 14.gxf5 Rxf5 15.0-0-0 Bh5 16.f3 Bg5 17.Rhg1 Bxe3 18.Qxe3 Qh4 19.Kb1 Qf4 20.Qf2 Nf8 21.d4 exd4 22.Bd3* Ekengren,O-Usachy,M ICCF corr 1987 Corr Nr. 1 [ChessBase II] 0-1 (45)*)* 8.0-0 Nb6 9.Ba2 Kh8 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Nb8 12.d4 e4 13.Ne1 Nd7 14.f3 f5 15.fxe4 fxe4 16.Rxf8+ Qxf8 17.c4 Nf6 18.Nc2 Qf7 19.Qe1 Qg6 20.Kh2 Bd7 21.Be3 Bradler,E (2510)-Henri (2109) Tel Aviv 2001 200 Traps In The Opening [Vassallo Barroche,Mauricio] 1-0 (33)]
7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nd4 9.Qd1 c6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Ne2 Ne6 The position is equal. **12.Ng3 d5 13.Ba2 Bc5 14.Bd2 a5 15.Bc3 Nd4 16.Bd2 Ne6 17.Bc3 Nd4 18.Re1 Re8 19.Bd2 Ne6 20.Qf3 Nd4 21.Qd1 Ne6 22.Qf3 Nd4 23.Qd1** A rather calm draw. Weighted Error Value: White=0. 03 (flawless) /Black=0. 01 (flawless)
½-½

D12
□ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
Masters Wijk aan Zee, NL (10.7) 29.01.25

D12: Slav Defence: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e3 Bf5
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 c6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Be4 7.f3 Bg6 8.Bd2 Be7 9.Nxg6 hxg6 White has an edge. **10.Qc2 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nd5** 0.45/18
[11...c5= 0.05/18]
12.Kf2N
[12.0-0-0 Nb4 13.Qb1 Nd7 14.Ne4 *(14.a3 Nd5 15.Qc2 a5 16.Bd3 Nxc3 17.Bxc3 b5 18.Be1 Qb6 19.h4 a4 20.Bb4 c5 21.dxc5 Bxc5 22.Be4 Rc8 23.Kb1 f5 24.Qd2 Nf6 25.Bxc5 Rxc5 26.Bd3 0-0 27.g4 fxg4 28.fxg4 Nxg4* Lupulescu,C (2581)-Giri,A (2760) Chess.com INT 2023 ½-½ (45) *)* 14...b5 15.Be2 a5 16.a3 Nd5 17.Qc2 b4 18.a4 b3 19.Qxb3 Rb8 20.Qc2 0-0 21.h4 Bb4 22.h5 g5 23.h6 g6 24.h7+ Kh8 25.Bc4 Bxd2+ 26.Qxd2 Rb4 Roehrich,S (2729)-Grube,J (2768) Ismailia EGY 2023 TD 94\02 [John Watson] 0-1 (65) 27.Bxd5 cxd5 28.Nc5 Qc7 29.Kb1 Rfb8 30.Rc1 Nxc5 31.dxc5 Rxb2+ 32.Qxb2+ Rxb2+ 33.Kxb2 Qb7+ 34.Kc2 Qb4 35.c6 Qxa4+ 36.Kd2 Qb4+ 37.Rc3 d4 38.exd4 Qxd4+ 39.Kc2 Qa4+ 40.Kb2 Qb5+ 41.Rb3 Qe5+ Yu,Y (2729)-Giri,A (2768) Chess.com INT 2023 0-1 (65)]
12...a6 13.Rad1 Nd7 14.g3 Rc8 15.Kg2 0-0 16.Be2
[16.e4 feels hotter. Nb4 17.Qb3 c5 18.dxc5 Nxc5 19.Qxb4 Nxe4 20.Nxe4 Bxb4 21.Bxb4 Qc7 22.Bxf8 Qxc4 23.Ba3]
16...c5 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Qb3 Qb6 0.57/22
[18...Nf6= 0.01/22]
19.Qxb6!±
[But not 19.Qxd5 Nf6 20.Qb3 Qxb3 21.axb3 cxd4=]
19...Nxb6 20.dxc5 Rxc5 21.Rc1 Inhibits Rc2. **21...Nc4 22.Bxc4 dxc4 23.Bb4 Rc7 24.Bxe7 Rxe7 25.Rxc4 Rxe3=** KRR-KRR **26.Rf1 Rd8 27.Rf2** Against Re2 **27...Red3 28.Re2** -0.01/24
[28.Rc7± 0.31/23]
28...f6 The position is equal. **29.h4 Kf7 30.Kf2 R3d4** Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
½-½

C50
□ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
■ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
87th Tata Steel Masters (11.1) 31.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Nc3 h6 6.0-0 d6 7.Na4 Bb6 8.a3
[8.c3 Bg4 9.b4 Qd7 10.Nxb6 axb6 11.a4 0-0 12.Bb5 Qc8 13.Re1 Ne7 14.h3 Bd7 15.Bxd7 Qxd7 16.d4 Ng6 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.Qxd7 Nxd7 20.Be3 Rfd8 21.c4 Nf8 22.c5 bxc5 ½-½ (44) Kramnik,V (2753)-Grischuk,A (2732) Amsterdam Levitov Rapid 2023 (11)]
8...Bg4
[8...0-0 9.h3 Be6 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.b4 Qd7 12.c3 Rf7 13.Ra2 Raf8 14.Re1 Nh5 15.Nxb6 axb6 16.Ng5 hxg5 17.Qxh5 b5 18.Bxg5 Na7 19.Re3 Nc6 20.Rg3 d5 21.Rg4 Qe8

22.Rh4 Rd7 23.Qh7+ 1-0 (26) Sindarov,J (2677)-Makarian,R (2550) Julius Baer GenCup D3 L rapid 2024 (4.2)]

9.c3 Inhibits Nd4. **9...Bh5N** White has an edge.

[9...Na5 10.Nxb6 axb6 11.Ba2 0-0 12.h3 Bh5 13.g4 Nxg4 14.hxg4 Bxg4 15.d4 Qf6 16.Kg2 Nc6 17.Qd3 exd4 18.Nh2 Bh5 19.Bd2 Qg6+ 20.Kh1 Ne5 21.Qg3 Qxe4+ 22.f3 Qc2 23.cxd4 Ng6 24.Bc3 1-0 (33) Philippe (2171)-Safar Zadeh, E (2272) Munich SKA 1993 (7) Rae8 25.Rae1 Qf5 26.Bb1 Qb5 27.Re4 d5 28.Rxe8 Rxe8 29.Qh3 Nf4 30.Qf5 Ne2 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Bd3 Qc6 33.Bb4+ 1-0 Obregon Garcia,R (2171)-Rakshitta,R (2272) Wch U20 Girls 39th 2023 (7)]

10.Nxb6 axb6 11.Qe2 Qd7 12.Qe3 0-0 13.h3 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nxe5 Qd6 16.Bxd5 Qxd5 17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.Qe4 Rfe8 19.Qxc6 bxc6 20.Bf4 Re2 21.b4 b5 22.Bxc7 Rc2 23.Be5 Be2 ...f6! is the strong threat. **24.Rfe1! Bxd3 25.Re3 Bg6** 0.90/24

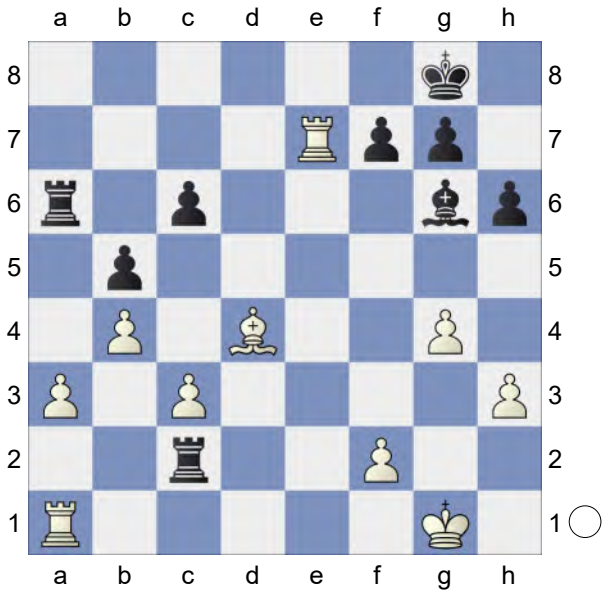
[25...Bc4± 0.39/24]

26.Bd4± Kh7 27.Re7 Ra6 1.99/24

[27...Kg8± 0.90/24 was necessary.]

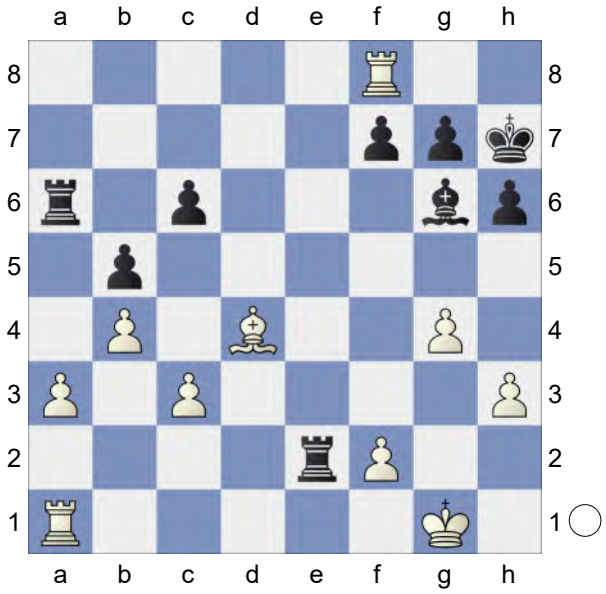
28.g4!+- Kg8

(Diagram)



29.Re8+! Kh7 30.Rf8 Re2

(Diagram)



Prevents Re1. **31.f4! f5 32.gxf5 Bh5 33.Rc8** 1.19/22

[Better is 33.f6+- 1.78/23 gxf6 34.Rxf6]

33...Bf3? 4.04/21 Black cannot hold the game after this.

[33...Bf7± 1.19/22 34.h4 h5]

34.Rc7 Rg2+ 35.Kf1 Strongly threatening f6. **35...Kg8** 4.39/23

[35...c5 2.96/20 was worth a try.]

36.Re1 Rxa3? 7.17/24

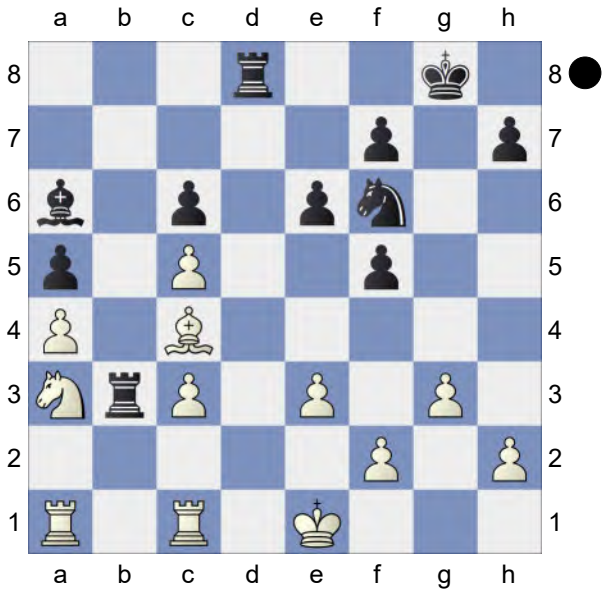
[36...Ra8 3.37/22 37.Rd7 *(37.Ree7 Rxa3 38.Rxg7+ Rxg7+-)* 37...c5 *(37...Rxa3?* is the wrong capture. *38.f6+-)* 38.bxc5 *(38.Bxc5 Rc8+-)* 38...Ra2]

37.f6 f7+ would kill now. **37...Bd5 38.f7+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.34
1-0

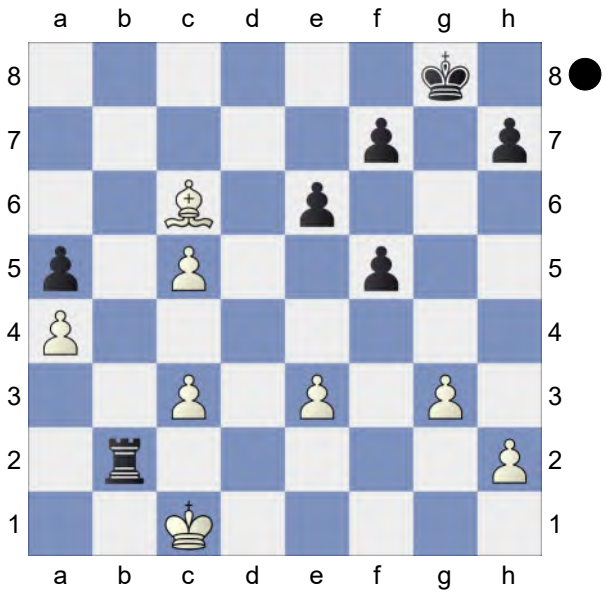
E04
□ **Fedoseev,Vladimir3** **2717**
■ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**
87th Tata Steel Masters (11.2) 31.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

E04: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 c6 6.a4 White has compensation. **6...Bb4+ 7.Bd2 a5 8.Bc3N** The position is equal.
[8.Qc2
A) 8...Bxd2+ 9.Qxd2 Ne4 *(9...b5 10.axb5 cxb5 11.Qg5 0-0 12.Qxb5 Ba6 13.Qa4 Qb6 14.0-0 Qxb2 15.Nbd2 Bb5 16.Nxc4 Bxa4 17.Nxb2 Bb5 18.Ne5 Ra7 19.Nbc4 Nbd7 20.Nxa5 Bxe2 21.Rfe1 Bh5 22.Nac6 Rxa1 23.Rxa1 Nxe5 24.dxe5* 1-0 (43) Vidit,S (2718)-Pichot,A (2600) FIDE World Cup 2019 (1.2)*)* 10.Qc1 Nd6 11.Nbd2 b5 12.Ne5 Bb7 13.b3 Qb6 14.e3 cxb3 15.Nxb3 b4 16.0-0 0-0 17.Nc5 Bc8 18.Qc2 Ra7 19.Rfc1 Rc7 20.h4 Nb7 21.Nb3 Nd7 22.Nxc6 Nb8 23.Qe4 1-0 (37) 4.♘f3 g6 5.♘bd2 (2730)-Sikorova,J (2725) 54/146 Barcelona 1992 (6);
B) 8...0-0 9.Qxc4 Bxd2+ 10.Nbxd2 b6 11.Qb3 Ba6 12.Nc4 Qd5 13.Rc1 Nbd7 14.0-0 b5 15.axb5 Qxb5 16.Nfd2 Nd5 17.Qxb5 Bxb5 18.Rfd1 Rfb8 19.e3 Kf8 20.b3 a4 21.bxa4 Bxa4 22.Re1 c5 1-0 (82) Andreikin,D (2729)-Sankalp,G (2505) Chess.com RCC Wk14 Swiss 2022 (6)]
8...0-0 9.Ne5 c5 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Na3 -0.01/21
[11.Nxc6± 0.35/23 might be stronger. bxc6 12.Bxc6]
11...Bxc3 12.bxc3 Nd5 13.Nxc6 -0.01/22
[13.Rc1± 0.46/20 was preferrable.]
13...bxc6= 14.dxc5 Ba6 15.Qd4 Qf6 16.Qxf6
[16.Nxc4? Qxd4 *(16...Nxc3 17.Qxf6 Nxe2+ 18.Kh1∓)* 17.cxd4 Bxc4-+]
16...gxf6 17.Rfc1 f5 18.Kf1 Rfd8 0.27/24
[⌓18...Rfc8! -0.27/22]
19.Ke1 Rab8 20.e3 -0.35/24
[Better is 20.Rab1= 0.16/22]
20...Rb3∓ 21.Bf1 Nf6
[21...Rxc3 22.Bxc4 Rxc1+ 23.Rxc1∓]
[21...Nxc3? 22.Nxc4 Bxc4 23.Bxc4±]
22.Bxc4



Rxa3 Remove Defender **23.Bxa6 Rb3 24.Bc4 Rb2** White must now prevent ... Rdd2. **25.Rab1 Rdb8 26.Rxb2 Rxb2=** Endgame. KRB-KRN **27.Be2** -1.26/25
[27.Rd1= -0.01/24]

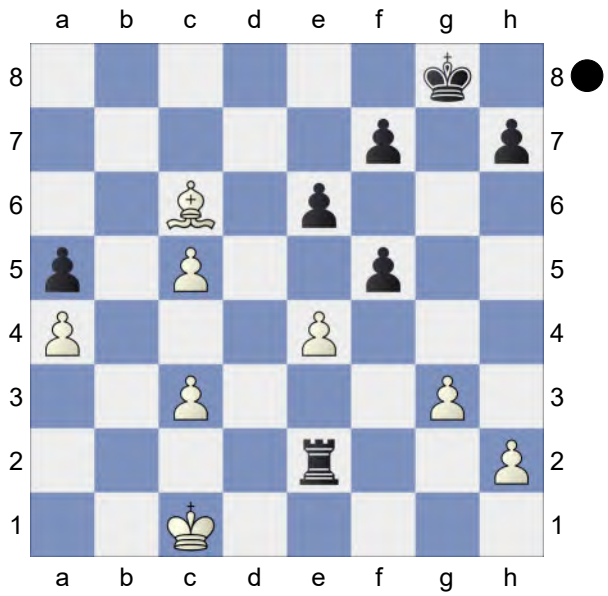
27...Ne4∓ Black is more active. **28.Bf3** -2.06/24
[28.Ra1∓ -1.28/22]
28...Nxf2-+
[28...Rxf2? 29.Bxe4 Rxh2 30.Bxc6+-]
29.Bxc6? -4.50/25
[29.Kf1 -2.13/25]
29...Nd3+ 30.Kd1 Nf2+? 0.01/5
[30...Nxc5 31.Rc2 Rb3 32.Rd2∓]
[30...Rxh2 31.Rb1=]
[Black should try 30...Nxc1-+ -4.42/27 31.Kxc1 Re2 *(31...Rxh2? 32.Bb7+-)*]
31.Ke1= Nd3+ 32.Kd1 White does not recover from this. **32...Nxc1**
[32...Nxc5 33.Rc2 Rb3 34.Ra2∓]
[32...Rxh2 33.Rb1=]
33.Kxc1-+



KR-KB **33...Re2**
[33...Rxh2 34.Bb7 Rh5 35.c6±]
34.e4

(Diagram)

Hoping for Bb7. Black is clearly winning.
34...Kf8!
[Stronger than 34...fxe4 35.Bb7 e3 *(35...Rxh2 36.c6=)* 36.c6 Re1+



(36...Rxh2? 37.c7+-) 37.Kc2=]
35.exf5 Ke7
[Not 35...exf5 36.Bb5 Re5 *(36...Rxh2?* is the wrong capture. *37.c6+-)* 37.Kc2-+]
36.fxe6 fxe6 37.h4 Re3 38.Kc2 Rxg3 39.Kb3 Rg4 40.h5 h6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.22 (precise)
0-1

B13
□ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2768**
87th Tata Steel Masters (11.3) 31.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

B13: Caro-Kann: Exchange Variation and Panov-Botvinnik Attack
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.h3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Nb4
[6...g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Re1 0-0 9.c3 Qc7 10.Nbd2 Bf5 11.Bf1 Rfe8 12.Nb3 Ne4 13.Be3 Rad8 14.Nfd2 Nd6 15.Bf4 f6 16.c4 e5 17.dxe5 fxe5 18.Bg5 Rc8 19.cxd5 Nb4 20.Rc1 Qf7 21.Nc4 1-0 (24) Molina,R

(2859)-4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗c4_43147 (2736) FIDE GP Moscow rapid 2002 (3.37)]

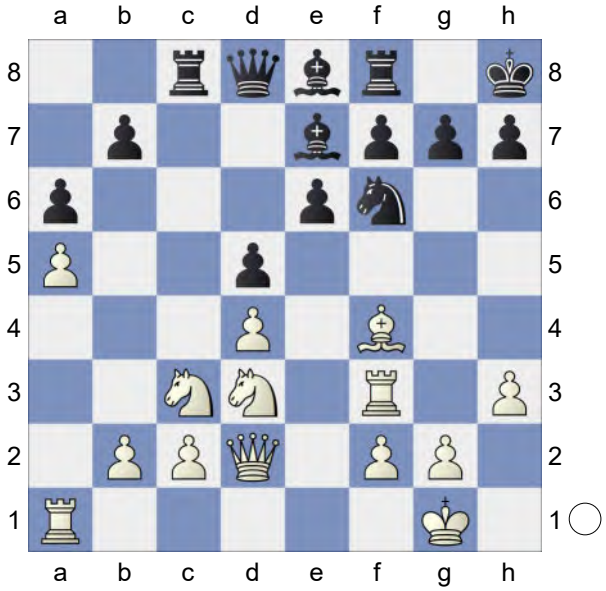
7.Ne5 Nxd3+N

[7...a6 8.Bf4 e6 9.Be2 Bd6 10.c3 Nc6 11.Qd3 Qc7 12.Qg3 0-0 13.Nd2 a5 14.0-0 b6 15.Rfe1 Ne7 16.Bf3 Nf5 17.Qh2 Ne8 18.g4 Ne7 19.Nd3 g5 20.Bg3 Ra7 21.Re3 Ng6 22.Ne5 ½-½ (26) Charbonneau,P (2050)-Urquhart,J (2401) South Herts Major 2007]

8.Qxd3 The position is equal. **8...e6 9.Nc3 Bd7 10.0-0 Rc8 11.Re1 Be7 12.Bg5 0-0 13.a4 Be8 14.a5 a6 15.Qd2 Qc7 16.Re3 Kh8 17.Nd3** Wards off Bb4 **17...Bb5 18.Ne5 Be8 19.Rf3 Ng8** 0.30/23

[19...Qd8 -0.07/21 should be considered.]

20.Bf4 And now Nxf7+! would win. **20...Qd8 21.Nd3** Against Bb4 **21...Nf6**

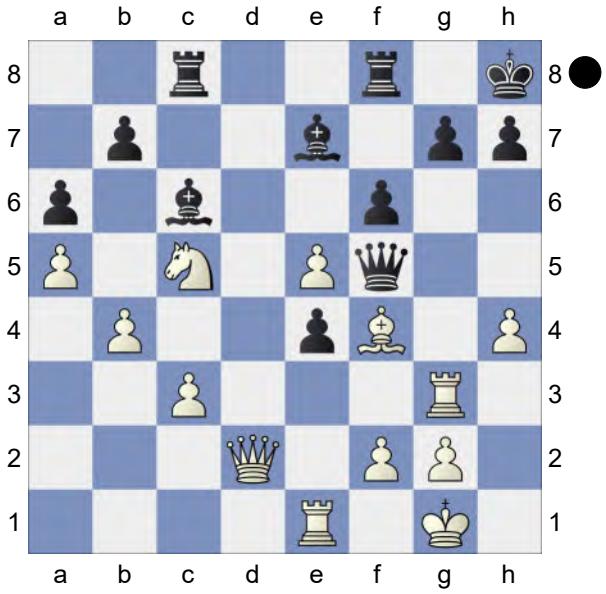


Black is weak on the dark squares **22.Nc5!** Prevents Ne4. **22...Bc6 23.b4 Ne4 24.N3xe4 dxe4 25.Rg3** Black must now prevent c4. **25...Qd5 26.Re1 Qf5 27.c3 f6 28.h4** -0.88/22

[28.Be3= -0.07/21]

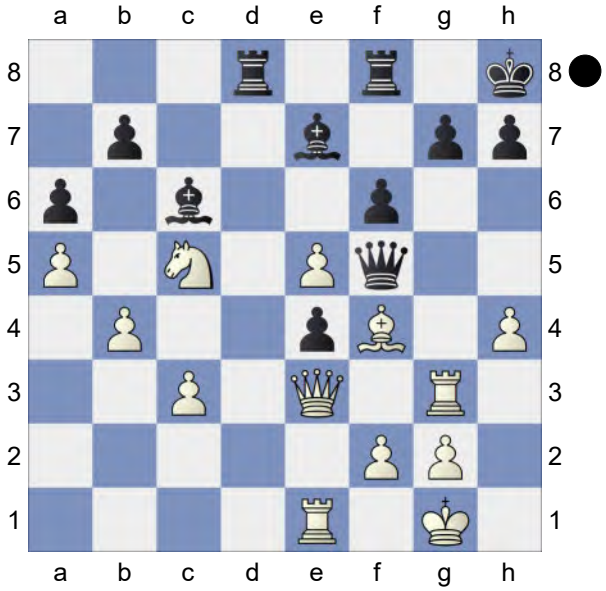
28...e5∓ 29.dxe5 -1.84/25

[29.Be3∓ -0.76/23 was worth a try. Rcd8 30.Qe2]



29...Rcd8!↑ Black is in control. **30.Qe3**

[30.exf6? Rxf6 *(30...Qxf6? 31.Nxe4 Qxf4 32.Qxf4-+)* 31.Rg5 Qxf4-+]



30...Bxc5! 31.bxc5 Rd3 -0.94/24

[31...fxe5 32.Bg5 Rd3 33.Qe2∓]

[31...g5-+ -2.27/26 32.hxg5 fxg5 *(32...Rd3 33.Qc1±)* 33.Bxg5 Rd3]

32.Qc1∓

[32.exf6? Rxf6 *(32...Rxe3?*

33.fxg7+ Kg8 34.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 35.fxe3+-; 32...Qxf6? 33.Rg4-+) 33.Bg5 Rxe3-+]

32...fxe5 33.Bxe5 Qxf2+ 34.Kh2 Rxg3 [34...Qxc5 35.Bxg7+ Kg8 36.Bxf8+ Kxf8 37.Qf4+ Ke7 38.Rg7+ *(38.Rxd3 Ke6+-)* 38...Ke6 39.Qf7+ *(39.Rxh7 Qxc3 40.Rc1 Kd5+-)* 39...Ke5 40.Rg5+ *(40.Rxh7 Qxc3 41.Rh5+ Kd4+-)* 40...Kd6 41.Qf8+ *(41.Qxh7 Qxc3 42.Qg6+ Ke7+-)* 41...Kd7 42.Qxc5 *(42.Rxc5 h6)*]

35.Bxg3 Qxc5 36.Bc7 -1.57/23 [White should try 36.Rf1 -1.12/23 Rxf1 37.Qxf1]

36...Rf7 -0.91/25 [⌓36...Qe7 -1.57/23 37.Bg3 Rf5]

37.Qd2 -1.47/25 **h6** [37...Rxc7 38.Qd8+]

38.Bb6 Qe7 -0.63/25 [38...Qh5∓ -1.51/24 39.Kg1 Qxh4]

39.Qd8+∓ Qxd8 40.Bxd8 Endgame. KRB-KRB **40...Rf2 41.Bb6 Ra2 42.h5 e3 43.Rxe3 Rxg2+ 44.Kh3 Kg8** [44...Rg5 45.Kh4∓]

45.Bd4 Rg1 46.Re7 Prevents Bd7+. **46...Rg5 47.Kh4 Kf8 48.Rc7 Be4 49.Bb6 Kg8 50.Rc8+ Kh7 51.Rc7 Bf3 52.Bd4** -0.71/29 [52.Rc5∓ -0.34/28]

52...Bxh5∓ [52...Rxa5? 53.Rxg7+ Kh8 54.Rg5+ *(54.Rxb7+ Kg8=)* 54...Kh7 55.Rxa5+-]

53.Rxb7 Be2 [53...Rxa5? 54.Rxg7+ *(54.Bxg7 Bf3∓)* 54...Kh8 55.Rg5+ Kh7 56.Rxa5+-]

54.Re7 Bf1 55.Rf7 Bc4 56.Re7 Bd3 ...Bf5! is the strong threat. [56...Rxa5? 57.Rxg7+ Kh8 58.Rg5+ Kh7 59.Rxa5+-]

57.Kh3 Bf5+ [57...Rxa5? perishes. 58.Rxg7+ *(58.Bxg7? too greedy. Rh5+ 59.Kg2 Rg5+ 60.Kf3 Rxg7-+)* 58...Kh8 59.Rg5+ Kh7 60.Rxa5+-]

58.Kh2 Rg4! 59.Rc7 Bd3 60.Rc5 Bb5 61.Kh3 Rg6 62.Rc7 Bf1+ 63.Kh4 Bd3 64.Kh3 h5 65.Rc5 Be2 66.Re5 Bf3 67.Re3 Bd1 68.Re1 Bg4+ 69.Kh4 Kg8 70.Re5 Rd6 71.Re7 Rg6 72.Re5 Rc6 73.Re7 g6 74.Rb7 Re6 75.Kg5 Bf5 76.Rb6 Kf7 77.Rxe6 Kxe6

Whites escaped into a draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)

[Much less strong is 77...Bxe6 78.Be3∓]

½-½

C55

□ **Gukesh,D.** **2777**

■ **Wei,Yi** **2751**

87th Tata Steel Masters (11.4) 31.01.25

[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack

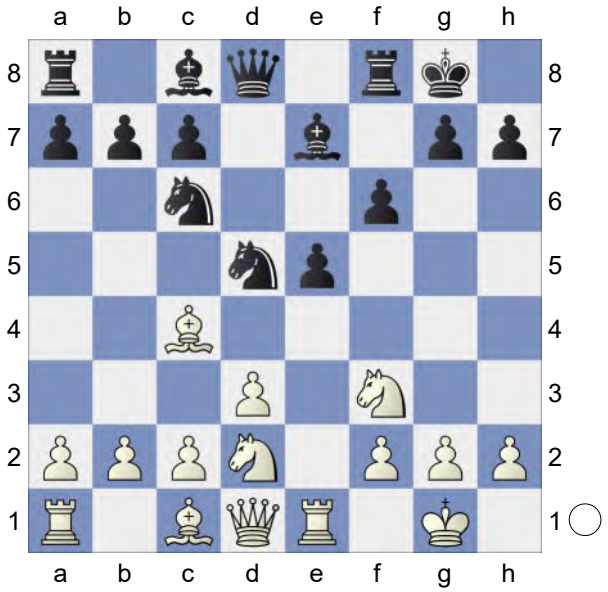
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 [4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Nb6 *(6...Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.d4 Nb6 9.Bb5 0-0 10.dxe5 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 fxe5 13.Nc3 Bg4 14.Re1 Bh4 15.Be3 Bf5 16.Na4 Bxc2 17.Nxb6 cxb6 18.Bc4+ Kh8 19.Bd5 Bd3 20.Bxb7 Rab8 21.Bd5* 0-1 (74) 3.c3 ♙g7 4. ♙g5_30545 (2123)-Hauge,L (2379) Cappelle op 25th 2009 (3)*)* 7.Bb5 Bd6 8.d4 e4 9.Re1 f5 10.Bg5 Qd7 11.c4 0-0 12.c5 exf3 13.cxb6 Qf7 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Qxf3 axb6 16.Nc3 f4 17.Qxc6 Bd7 18.Qd5 Qxd5

19.Nxd5 1-0 (41) Rojas Keim,L (2680)-Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2738) Metz op 28th 2010 (5.5)]

5.0-0 0-0 6.Nbd2N

[6.Nc3 d6 7.a3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nd4 10.Qd1 c6 11.f4 exf4 12.Rxf4 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Ba2 Bc5 15.Kh1 Re8 16.Rf1 Ne6 17.g4 d4 18.Na4 Be7 19.g5 Nd7 20.Rxf7 Bd6 ½-½ (56) Edighoffer,H-Melton,R APCT King ch-1 1996]

6...d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Re1 f6



White is slightly better. **9.d4! Bg4 10.Nb3 Kh8! 11.h3**

[11.dxe5 Nb6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Qxd8 Raxd8±]

11...Bh5 12.c3 0.11/22

[12.dxe5± 0.61/21 Ndb4 13.e6]

12...exd4

[12...Nb6 keeps more tension. 13.Be6 a5 14.a4 Bd6]

13.Nbxd4 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Nb6 16.Qxd8 Rfxd8 17.Rxe7 Nxc4 18.Bf4!

[18.Rxc7 Rd1+ 19.Kg2 Ne5-+]

18...Nxb2 19.Rb1 Rd1+ 20.Rxd1 Nxd1 21.Rxc7= Endgame. KRB-KRN

21...b6 22.Kf1 Re8 23.Bd2 h5 24.Rxa7 Rd8 25.Be1 0.01/25

[25.Ke2± 0.53/25 Nxf2 26.h4]

25...Nb2 The position is equal. **26.Rb7 Nc4 27.Rc7 Ne5** Black has compensation. **28.Ke2 Re8 29.Bd2 Nc4+ 30.Be3 Nxe3!**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

½-½

D35

□ **Caruana,Fabiano 2803**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,R. 2741**
87th Tata Steel Masters (11.5) 31.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Nge2 Re8 9.h3

[9.Qc2 h6 10.Bh4 a5 11.h3 Na6 12.a3 Nc7 13.0-0 Ne6 14.f3 Ng5 15.f4 Ne6 16.Rae1 Be7 17.Kh2 Bd7 18.Bf2 b5 19.Ng1 b4 20.axb4 axb4 21.Nce2 c5 22.Nf3 c4 23.Bf5 Nf8 0-1 (73) Hanisch,J (2418)-Tymrakiewicz,R (2692) Staunton Memorial 7th 2009 (6)]

9...Nbd7 10.Qc2N Bxh7+! would now be deadly. White is slightly better.

[10.0-0 h6 11.Bh4 Nf8 12.Qd2 b5 13.f3 b4 14.Nd1 Ne6 15.Rc1 Bd7 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Ba6 Ng5 18.Nf2 Qxf3 19.gxf3 Nxf3+ 20.Kg2 Nxd2 21.Rfd1 Ne4 22.Bb7 Rad8 23.Bxc6 Nf6 24.Kf3 Re6 0-1 (59) Clementia,A (1550)-Hamedi Nia,V (1986) Olympiad Women-45 2024 (4.25)]

10...Nf8 11.0-0-0 -0.10/20

[⌓11.0-0 0.30/21 Ng6 12.f3 h6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Nd1 Nh4 15.f4 Bf5

16.Ng3 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 Re6 18.Nf2 Qg6 19.Qxg6 Rxg6 20.Kh2 Re8 21.Ng4 Rge6 22.Rae1 Kh7 23.Kh1 Rg6 24.Kh2 Rge6 25.Kh1 f6 26.Re2 0-1 (48) Bashylina,L (2124)-Ramsdal,J (2328) Budapest SixDays 09 IM-A 2024 (2)]

11...b5 12.Kb1 a5 0.58/20

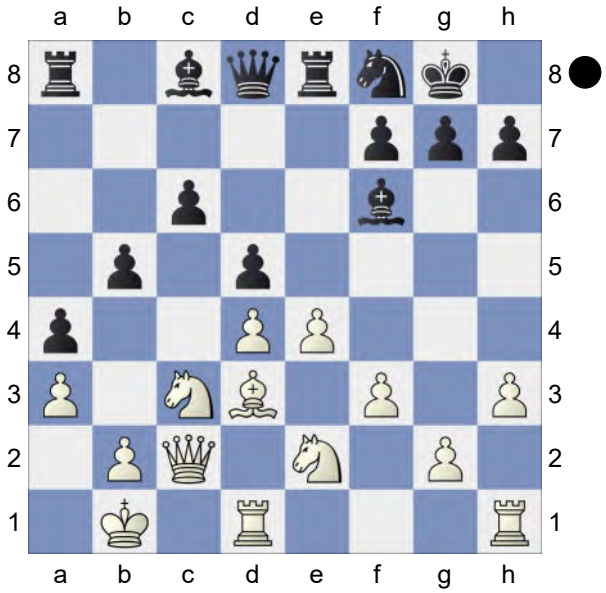
[12...Be7= -0.03/19]

13.f3 -0.01/20

[13.e4± 0.58/20]

13...Be7= 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.e4 a4 16.a3

[16.Rhf1 simplifies Ba6 17.a3 Be7 18.exd5 cxd5 19.Bxb5 Bxb5 20.Nxb5 Qd7 21.Nbc3]



16...b4! 17.axb4 a3 18.b3 Qb6 0.06/21

[18...Rb8!∓ -0.45/19]

19.Ka2 dxe4

[19...Bxd4?! 20.Nxd4 *(20.exd5 Bxc3 21.Nxc3 Qxb4±)* 20...Qxd4 21.b5±]

20.fxe4 Black must now prevent b5.

20...Bxd4 0.43/23

[20...Be6= -0.01/21]

21.Nxd4± Qxd4 22.b5 Bd7 23.Bc4 Qa7 24.bxc6! Bxc6 25.Rhf1 Re7 0.85/21

[25...Ne6± 0.35/20]

26.Nd5 Rb7 27.Rf5 Rc8 0.77/21

[27...Ne6= 0.15/20]

28.Qd3 0.23/20

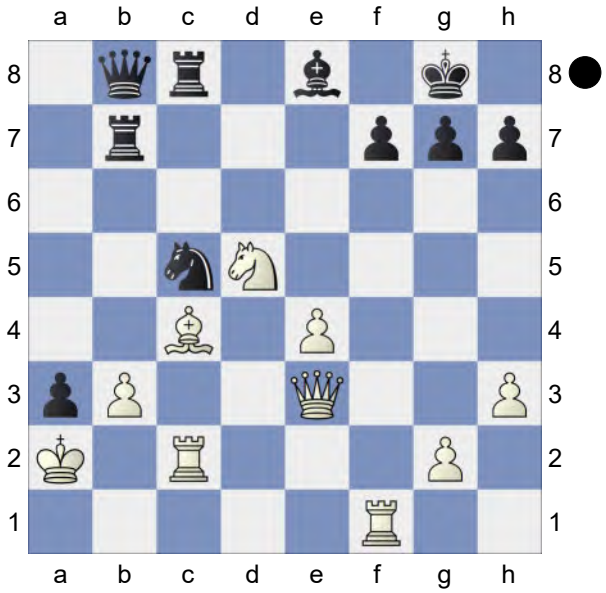
[28.Qf2± 0.77/21 And now Rxf7! would win. Be8 29.Qxa7 Rxa7 30.Nc3]

28...Ne6= 29.Rdf1 -0.23/21

[White should try 29.Rd2± 0.36/21]

29...Be8 30.R5f2 Qb8 31.Rc2 Nc5 32.Qe3 -1.42/20

[32.Qe2∓ -0.53/23]



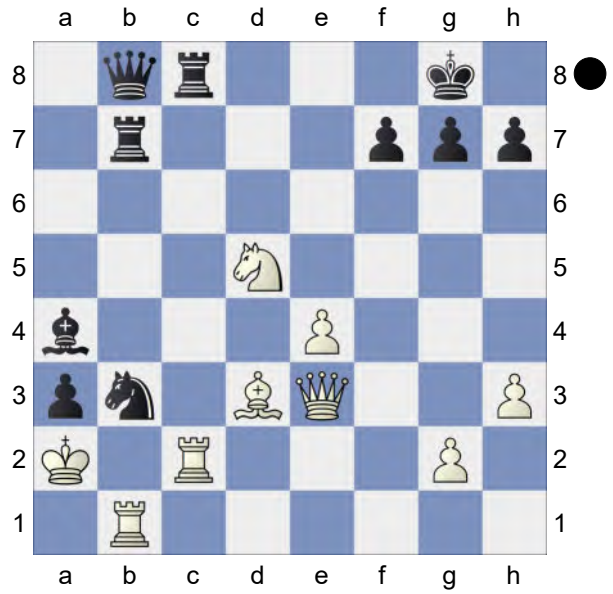
32...Nxb3!∓ 33.Rb1

[33.Bxb3? Rxc2+ 34.Bxc2 Rb2+ 35.Kxa3 Rxc2-+]

33...Ba4 ...Kh8 is the strong threat.

34.Bd3? -11.65/23

[34.Qf2 -1.92/24 Na5 Discovered Attack 35.Rxb7 Remove Defender Qxb7 36.Ne7+ Kh8 *(36...Qxe7 37.Bxf7+ Qxf7+ 38.Qxf7+ Kxf7 39.Rxc8∓)* 37.Nxc8 Bxc2 *(37...Qxc8 38.Rc1∓; 37...Nxc4? 38.Qc5+-)* 38.Qxc2 Nxc4 *(38...Qxc8 39.Bb3∓)* 39.Ne7]

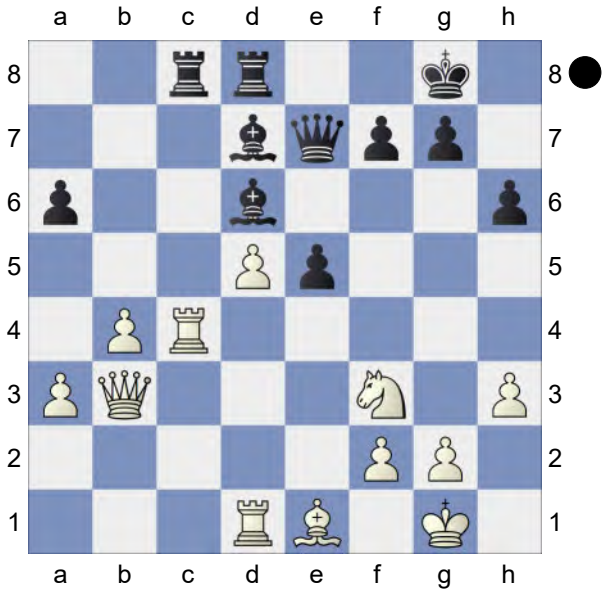


34...Nc5!-+ Black is clearly winning. **35.Ne7+**
[35.Rf2 Bb3+]
35...Kh8 36.Rxb7 Qxb7 37.Ba6 Qxe7 Weighted Error Value: White=0.79/ Black=0.11 (very precise)
0-1

D37

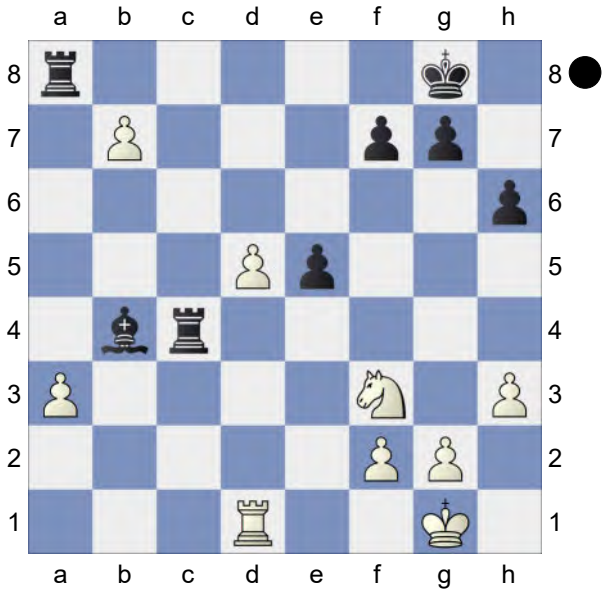
□ **Sarana,Alexey** **2677**
■ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2695**
87th Tata Steel Masters (11.6) 31.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

D37: Queen's Gambit Declined: 5 Bf4
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 h6 5.e3 a6N
[5...Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 a6 8.a4 c5 9.0-0 Qc7 10.Qe2 Bd6 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.e4 Bd6 13.Re1 Ng4 14.h3 Nge5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Bb3 0-0 7) Sarin Queen/^s Gambit Decl-Sarin Queen'S Gambit Declined 1... e6 Against Everything 2024]
6.b3 c5 7.cxd5 cxd4 8.Nxd4 aiming for dxe6. The position is equal. **8...Nxd5 9.Bd2 Nf6 10.Qc2 Bd7 11.Be2 Nc6** next ...Nxd4 is good for Black. **12.Nf3 Rc8 13.0-0 Be7 14.Rfd1 0-0 15.a3 Bd6 16.b4 Qe7 17.Be1 Rfd8 18.Qb1 Ne5 19.Qb3 b5 20.h3 Nc4 21.Rac1 e5** And now ...e4 would win. **22.e4** -1.18/22
[22.Bxc4= -0.28/21 bxc4 *(22...Rxc4 23.Nd2∓)* 23.Qc2]
22...Be6∓ 23.Nd5 Prevents Ne3 **23...Nxd5** -0.27/23
[23...Bxd5∓ -0.95/21 24.exd5 e4]
24.exd5= Bd7 25.Bxc4 -1.28/23
[Better is 25.Nd2∓ -0.31/22]
25...bxc4∓ 26.Rxc4



Ba4! Deflection **27.Qxa4 Rxc4 28.Qxa6 Qc7 29.b5** -1.57/24
[⌓29.Kf1 -0.81/21]
29...Qc8 -1.08/22
[⌓29...e4 -1.57/24 30.b6 Qc5]
30.Qa5 Qa8 31.b6 Qxa5 32.Bxa5 Ra8 -0.23/22
[32...Ra4!-+ -1.70/23 33.Bc3 f6 *(33...Bxa3? 34.Bxe5 Rd7 35.Bc7+-)*]
33.Bb4 -1.96/24 This move loses the game for White. **33...Bxb4-+ 34.b7** -2.60/25
[34.axb4 -1.72/23 was the only

defense. f6 *(34...Rxb4 35.Nxe5 f6 36.Nc6±)* 35.Kh2]



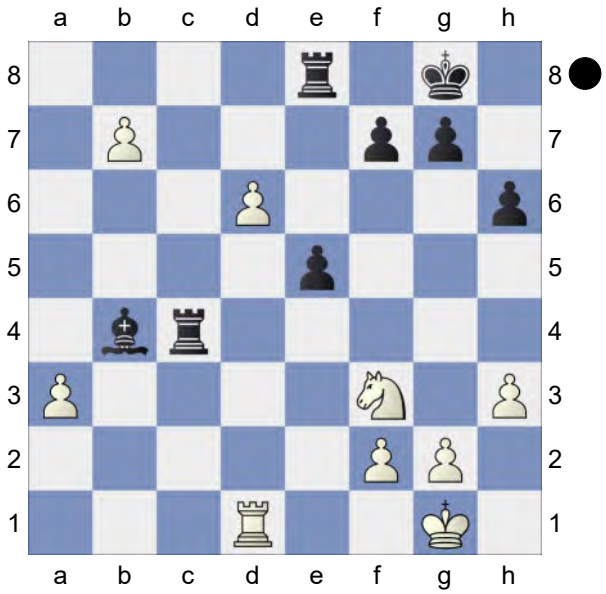
34...Re8!

[34...Rxa3? is the wrong capture. 35.b8Q+ *(35.b8B? f6-+)* 35...Kh7 36.Nxe5+- *(36.Qxe5 Bc3+-)*]

[34...Rb8 35.Nxe5 Re4 36.Nc6 Rxb7 37.axb4=]

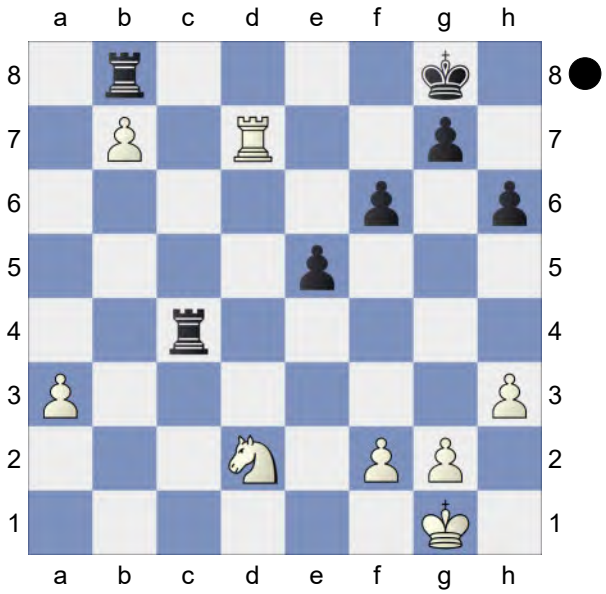
35.d6? -4.13/23

[35.axb4 -2.47/24 Rxb4 36.Nh2]



35...Bxd6! 36.Rxd6 f6 37.Rd7 Rb8

Black is clearly winning. **38.Nd2**



Rd4 39.Rxd4 exd4 40.Nb3 d3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/ Black=0.14 (very precise)

[40...Rxb7? 41.Nxd4 Rd7 42.Nf5-+]

0-1

E24

□ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**

■ **Erigaisi,Arjun** **2801**

87th Tata Steel Masters (11.7) 31.01.25

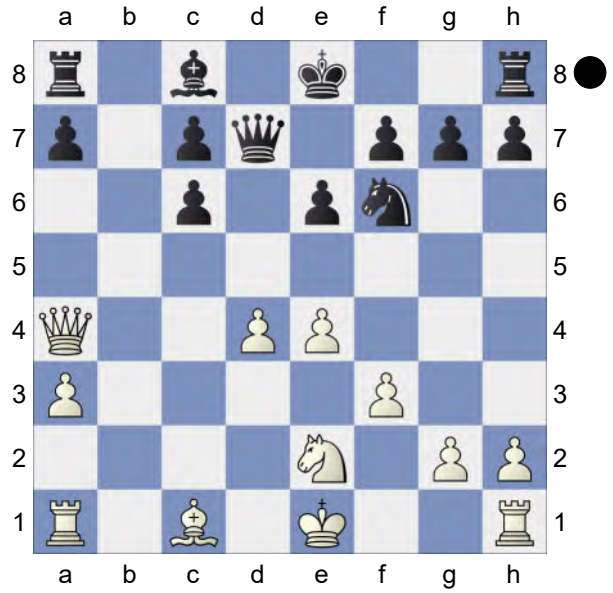
[Kitty Kat]

E24: Nimzo-Indian: Sämisch: Unusual Black 5th moves and 5...c5 sidelines

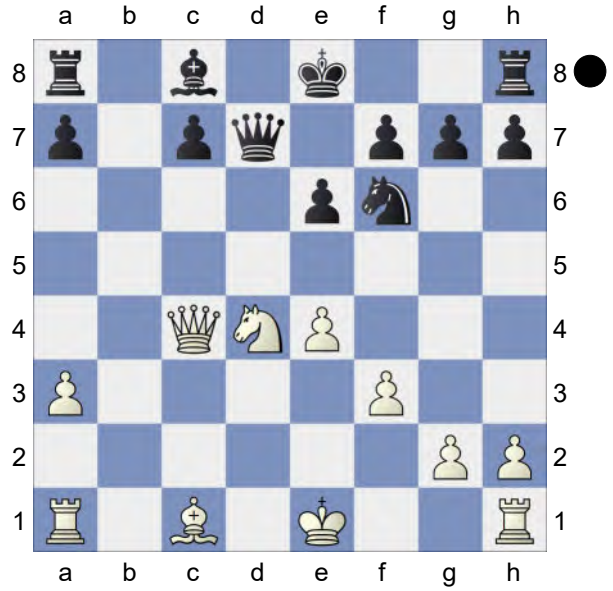
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 Nc6 6.f3 b6 7.e4 Na5 8.c5 bxc5 9.Qa4N

[9.Rb1 cxd4 10.cxd4 c5 11.dxc5 0-0 12.Bf4 Nb7 13.Qd4 Re8 14.Ne2 Qa5+ 15.Nc3 a6 16.Be3 Qxa3 17.e5 Nd5 18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Kf2 Nd8 20.Qxd5 Bb7 21.Rxb7 Nxb7 22.Qxb7 Rab8 23.Qd5 Qb2+ 1-0 (31) Firouzja,A (2737)-So,W (2757) Bucharest Superbet Classic 4th 2024 (6)]

9...Nc6 10.Bb5 cxd4 11.Bxc6 dxc6 The position is equal. **12.cxd4 Qd7 13.Ne2**



c5! 14.Qc4 cxd4 15.Nxd4

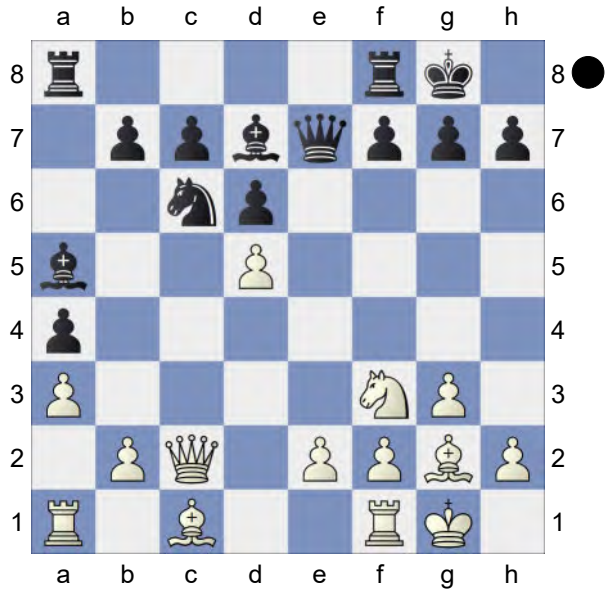


Ba6! Deflection **16.Qxa6**
[16.Qc5 simplifies Qd6 17.Qc6+ Qxc6 18.Nxc6 Bb5 19.Na5]
16...Qxd4 17.Qc6+ Ke7 Threatens to win with ...Rhd8. **18.Qxc7+ Nd7 19.Bg5+ f6 20.Rd1 Rhc8 21.Qg3** Really sharp! **21...Qb6⇄** Black is not keeping still **22.Bf4 g6 23.Qf2** Inhibits Rc2.
[23.Qh4 looks sharper. h5 24.Qf2 Qb5 25.Qe2]
23...Qxf2+
[23...Qb5 is interesting. 24.Qd4 Nb6 25.Kf2 Kf7]
24.Kxf2 e5 25.Be3 Rc2+ 26.Rd2 Rac8 27.Rhd1 Nb6 28.Bxb6 axb6 29.Ke2 R8c3 30.a4 Rxd2+ 31.Rxd2 Ra3 32.Rb2 An interesting draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

E00
□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2695**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
87th Tata Steel Masters (12.1) 01.02.25
[Kitty Kat]

E00: Catalan Bogo-Indian (3 g3 Bb4+)
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Nd2 0-0 5.Bg2 a5
[5...d5 6.Ngf3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.Ne5 Be7 9.b3 Nbd7 10.Bb2 c6 11.Rc1 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.e4 Nc5 15.exd5 Bxd5 16.Nc4 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Nd3 18.Qf3 Nxc1 19.Rxc1 Rc8 20.Rd1 0-1 (35) Goryachkina,A (2545)-Artemiev,V (2694) Moscow Stars Blitz 2024 (11)]
6.Ngf3N
[6.e4 d5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e5 Nfd7 9.Ne2 c5 10.a3 Bxd2+ 11.Qxd2 Nc6 12.0-0 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Ndxe5 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qc3 Qf6 16.Bf4 Ng6 17.Qxf6 gxf6 18.Bd2 a4 19.Rfc1 Bd7 20.Be3 f5 0-1 (22) Aleksieva,S (2296)-Maiorov,N (2531) Vaujany op-A 8th 2017 (9.5) 21.f4 f6 22.Bf3 Kg7 ½-½ Alexikov,A (2223)-Bazzano,S (2280) Titled Tuesday intern op 15th Nov Late blitz 2022 (5)]

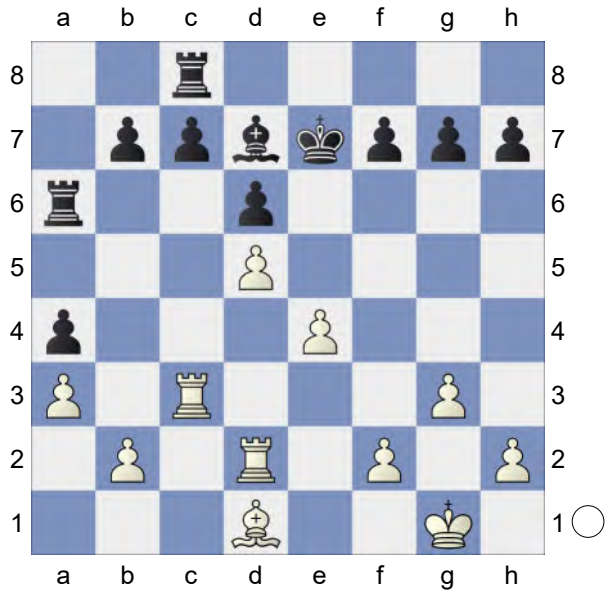
6...d6 7.0-0 a4 8.Qc2 White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Ne4 Nxe4 10.Qxe4 Qe7 11.a3 Ba5 12.Qc2 Bd7 13.d5 exd5 14.cxd5**



Black must now prevent Ng5! **14...Ne5 15.Bd2 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 Rfc8 17.Rac1 Ra6 18.Rfd1 Qf6**

[18...Bxd2 simplifies 19.Qxd2 b6 20.e4 Ra5]

19.Bc3 Bxc3 20.Qxc3 Qxc3 21.Rxc3 Rb6 22.Rd2 Kf8 23.e4 Ke7 24.Bd1 Ra6



25.h3 0.01/22 **f6** 0.40/23

[25...c6= 0.01/22]

26.Rd4 0.01/22

[26.Rc4± 0.40/23 was preferrable.]

26...Rb6= 27.Rd2 Kd8 0.33/21

[27...c5= -0.07/25 might be stronger.]

28.Kg2 Ra8 29.Be2 Ra5 30.f4 Bb5 The position is equal. **31.Bg4 Be8 32.Be2** Against Rab5 **32...Bb5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)

½-½

C42

□ **Wei,Yi** **2751**

■ **Giri,Anish** **2731**

87th Tata Steel Masters (12.2) 01.02.25

[Kitty Kat]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Bf5 9.Nc3

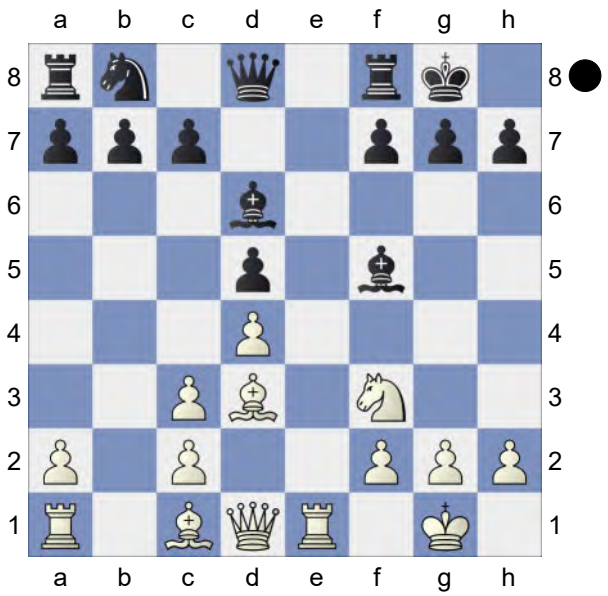
[9.c4 c6 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Nd7 14.Qf5 Nb6 15.Ng5 g6 16.Qh3 h5 17.g4 Qd7 18.gxh5 Qxh3 19.Nxh3 Rfe8 20.Bf4 Bxf4 21.Nxf4 g5 22.Nh3 Na4 23.Rac1 Rxe1+ ½-½ (56) Anand,V (2783)-Kasparov,G (2812) Saint Louis (blitz) 133/57 2017]

9...Nxc3 10.bxc3

(Diagram)

And now Rb1 would win. **10...Bxd3 11.cxd3N** White has an edge.

[11.Qxd3 h6 *(11...Nd7 12.Rb1 Nb6 13.Ng5 g6 14.Qh3 h5 15.g4 Qd7 16.gxh5 Rae8 17.Be3 Qxh3 18.Nxh3 gxh5 19.Bf4 Kg7 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Bxd6 cxd6 22.Nf4*



3.g3 b5 4.Bg2 Bb7/ 6.Na3-Dellenbach, J (ol) 121/114 2014) 12.c4 dxc4 13.Qxc4 Nd7 14.Rb1 b6 15.Qd3 Nf6 16.c4 Qd7 17.Be3 Rfe8 18.h3 Rad8 19.Rbd1 a6 20.Qc2 Qc8 21.d5 Bb4 22.Rf1 Bc5 23.Bxc5 bxc5 24.Rfe1 Rxe1+ 25.Nxe1 c6 0-1 (50) Durarbayli,V (2625)-Keymer, V (2717) AI Cup Play In Match rapid 2023 (1.2) 26.dxc6 Rxd1 27.Qxd1 Qxc6 28.Qd8+ Kh7 29.Nd3 Qe4 30.Nxc5 Qe1+ 31.Kh2 Qe5+ 32.Kg1 Qxc5 33.Qd3+ g6 34.Qc3 Kg7 35.g4 a5 36.h4 g5 37.h5 Qb4 38.Qd4 Qe1+ 39.Kh2 Qe4 40.Qc3 Qf4+ 0-1 (50) Durarbayli,V (2612)-Paravyan,D (2586) Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Dec Early blitz 2022 (5)]

11...Nc6 12.c4 Bb4 13.Bd2 Bxd2 14.Qxd2 Qf6 15.cxd5 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Qxd4 17.Rac1 Rac8 18.Re7 Qxd5 19.Rcxc7 The position is equal. **19...Rxc7 20.Rxc7=** Endgame. KQR-KQR **20...h6 21.h3 Rd8 22.Qe3 Qxd3 23.Rxb7 Qxe3 24.fxe3** KR-KR **24...Rd1+ 25.Kh2 Rd3 26.Rxa7 Rxe3 27.Ra8+ Kh7 28.Ra7 f5 29.Ra6 f4 30.Ra4 g5 31.Ra7+ Kg6 32.Ra6+ Kh5 33.a4 Re2 34.Rf6 Ra2 35.a5 Rxa5 36.g4+ fxg3+ 37.Kxg3 Ra3+ 38.Kg2** A rather calm draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)

½-½

	D36
☐ **Praggnanandhaa,R.**	**2741**
■ **Sarana,Alexey**	**2677**
87th Tata Steel Masters (12.3)	01.02.25

[Kitty Kat]

D36: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation: Main line (5 Bg5 c6 6 Qc2)

Dokhoian,Y: 'Inf 61/(433)' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.Qc2 Be6**

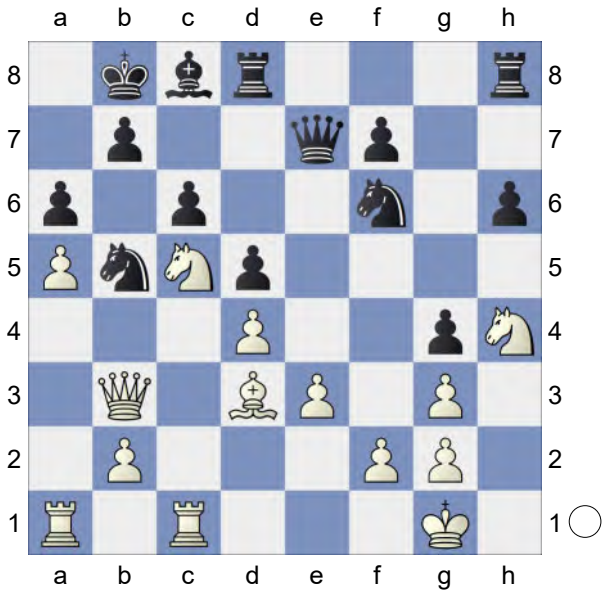
[6...Na6 7.e3 Nb4 8.Qb1 g6 9.Qd1 a5 10.a3 Na6 11.Bd3 Bg7 12.Nf3 0-0 13.0-0 Dokhoian,Y (2580)-Vaganian,R (2645) (m/4) 61/(433) 1994]

7.e3 Nbd7 8.Be2N

[8.Bd3 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 Nh5 11.Nge2 *(11.Nf3 Nxg3 12.hxg3 Bg7 13.Rb1 Qe7 14.b4 Rc8* D 36/01 2003 *)* 11...Nxg3 12.Nxg3 Nf6 *(12...h5 13.0-0-0 h4 14.Nge2 Qe7 15.Kb1 Nb6 16.Rc1 0-0-0 17.Na4 Nxa4 18.Qxa4 Kb8 19.Rc3 Qf6 20.f4 Bd6 21.Rf1 Rhe8 22.Qd1 Bc8 23.Bc2 Bg4 24.h3 Bxe2 25.Qxe2 gxf4 26.Qf2 Re7 27.exf4* 0-1 (48) Cvitan,E (2259)-Injac,T (2425) Olympiad Women-45 2024 (3.19)*)* 13.Rb1 h5 14.Nf5 Ne4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qxe4 Qf6 17.d5 cxd5 18.Qa4+ Bd7 19.Qd4 Qxd4 20.Nxd4 Bb4 21.Ke2 Bxc3 22.bxc3 b6

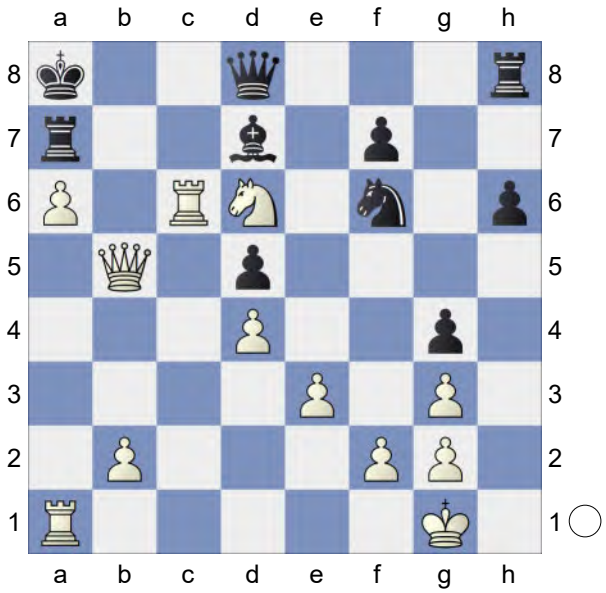
½-½ (60) Kashlinskaya,A (2441)-Kovalevskaya,E (2453) RUS-ch (Women) 65th 2015 (8) 23.Nb5 Ke7 24.Nc7 Rac8 25.Nxd5+ Ke6 26.Rhd1 Rc5 27.e4 Rhc8 28.Rd4 Bb5+ 29.Kd2 Bc4 30.Ne3 Bxa2 31.Ra1 Ra5 32.c4 Rcc5 33.Kc3 Ra3+ 34.Kb2 Rca5 35.Rd5 Rb3+ 36.Kc1 Ra4 37.Rxg5 Rbb4 ½-½ (60) Gligoric Taimanov Variation, W (2441)-Dimitrijevic,N (2453) corr BFM- 055 1998 (8)]

8...Bd6 9.Bd3 The position is equal.
9...h6 10.Bh4 g5 11.Bg3 Bxg3 12.hxg3 Qe7 13.Nf3 White wants to play Nxg5. **13...g4** 0.68/21
[13...0-0-0= 0.17/19]
14.Nh4± White is more active. **14...Nb6 15.0-0 0-0-0 16.a4 Kb8 17.a5 Nc4 18.Na4 Nd6! 19.Nc5**
[19.Rfc1 keeps more tension. Rc8 20.Qb3 Nfe4 21.Nc5]
19...a6 20.Rfc1 0.07/22
[20.Ra3± 0.48/21 might be stronger.]
20...Bc8= 21.Qb3 Nb5? 5.03/21
[21...Ka8= 0.11/22]



A mistake that costs the game.

22.Nxa6+!+- Deflection **22...bxa6 23.Rxc6 Rd7** 6.90/23
[⌓23...Ne4 4.26/21 24.Bxb5 axb5 25.Qxb5+ Ka8]
24.Nf5 Qd8 25.Bxb5 axb5 26.a6
[26.Qxb5+ Rb7 27.Qd3 Bd7+- *(27...Ne4 28.a6±)*]
26...Ra7 27.Qxb5+ Ka8 28.Nd6 Bd7



29.Qb7+!! Back Rank.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.87
1-0

D31
□ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**
■ **Gukesh,D.** **2777**
87th Tata Steel Masters (12.4) 01.02.25
[Kitty Kat]

D31: Queen's Gambit Declined: Semi-Slav without ...Nf6 (+ Marshall Gambit and Noteboom) and Exchange Variation lines without ...Nf6
R.Scherbakov: 'Hikaru refused to push his K-side pawns forward here, and instead chose a cautious set-up. However, Levon was equal to the task

and gained the advantage with a series of concrete and strong moves. Later Black missed several promising options and, even though White's play was also far from perfect, he eventually prevailed thanks to his material advantage. ''Hikaru refused to push his K-side pawns forward here, and instead chose a cautious set-up. However, Levon was equal to the task and gained the advantage with a series of concrete and strong moves. Later Black missed several promising options and, even though White's play was also far from perfect, he eventually prevailed thanks to his material advantage. RR: 'R. Scherbakov: 'Hikaru refused to push his K-side pawns forward here, and instead chose a cautious set-up. However, Levon was equal to the task and gained the advantage with a series of concrete and strong moves. Later Black missed several promising options and, even though White's play was also far from perfect, he eventually prevailed thanks to his material advantage.'' RR: 'R. Scherbakov: 'Hikaru refused to push his K-side pawns forward here, and instead chose a cautious set-up. However, Levon was equal to the task and gained the advantage with a series of concrete and strong moves. Later Black missed several promising options and, even though White's play was also far from perfect, he eventually prevailed thanks to his material advantage.''' **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4 c6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Nge2 Nd7 8.Rc1N**

[8.Ng3

A) 8...Bg6 9.Be2 *(9.h4 h5 10.Bd3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 g6 12.e4 Ngf6 13.e5 Nh7 14.e6 Ndf8 15.exf7+ Kxf7 16.Be5 Rg8 17.f4 Bxh4 18.f5 Bxg3+ 19.Bxg3 Qg5 20.0-0 Nf6 21.Bf4 Qg4 22.Nd1 Re8 23.Ne3 Rxe3* ½-½ (78) Duda,J (2610)-Solodovnichenko,Y (2592) FRA-chT Top 12 2015 (8.2)*)* 9...Nb6 *(9...Ngf6 10.h4 h5 11.Bf3 Qa5 12.a3 Nb6 13.b4 Qa6 14.Be2 Nc4 15.Bg5 Rd8 16.Ra2 Rd6 17.Qb3 b5 18.a4* D 31/21 2003 *)* 10.Be5 Nf6 11.h4 h6 12.h5 Bh7 13.Bd3 0-0 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Qc2+ Kh8 16.Nf5 Nc4 17.b3 Nxe5 18.dxe5 Ng4 19.f4 Qd7 20.0-0-0 f6 21.e4 fxe5 22.Qe2 Nf6 23.Nh4 1-0 (54) Nakamura,H (2758)-Aronian,L (2802) London Classic 3rd 2011 (2);

B) 8...Be6 9.Nh5 Bf8 10.Bg3 Ngf6 11.Bd3 Nxh5 12.Qxh5 Be7 13.0-0 Nf6 14.Qe2 0-0 Qgd Nc3-QGD 4.cxd5 − 6.e3 #28]

[8.h4 Be6 9.h5 h6 10.Ng3 Ngf6 11.Bd3 Nb6 12.Nf5 Bxf5 13.Bxf5 Nc4 14.Qc2 Bd6 Qgd Nc3-QGD 4.cxd5 − 6.e3 #29]

8...Ngf6 9.Ng3 Bg6 10.h4 h5 11.Be2 Qb6 12.Qd2 -0.01/19

[12.0-0± 0.45/21]

12...Ng4 0.78/19

[12...0-0= -0.01/19 keeps the balance.]

13.Bg5 Bd6 14.Bf4 -0.01/20

[14.Bxg4± 0.60/21 hxg4 15.a3]

14...Be7= 15.Bg5 -0.01/19

[15.e4!± 1.03/18]

15...Qd8 0.92/20

[15...Bd6!= -0.01/19]

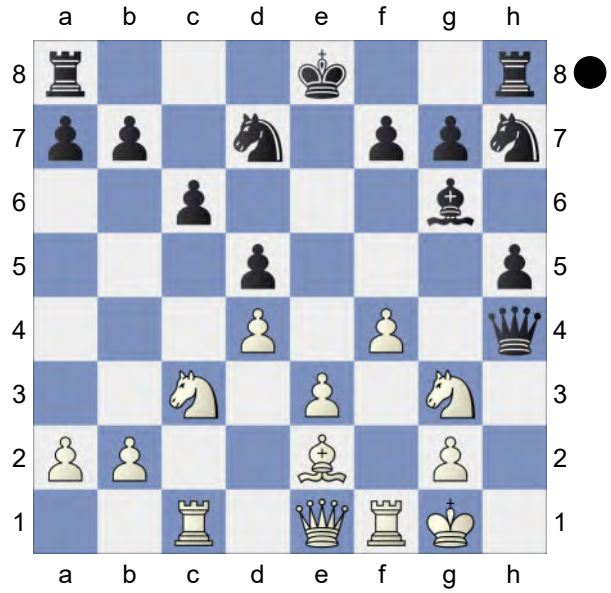
16.f3± Bxe7 is the strong threat.

16...Ngf6 17.0-0 0.05/20 White is more active.

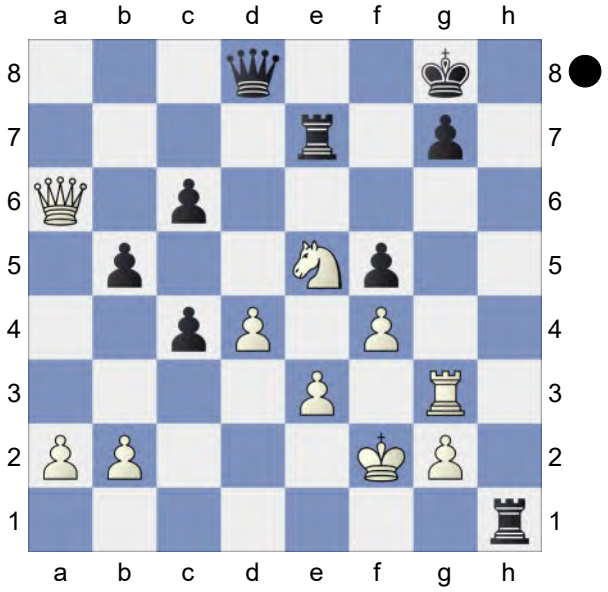
[17.e4± 0.87/20]

17...Nh7= 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.f4

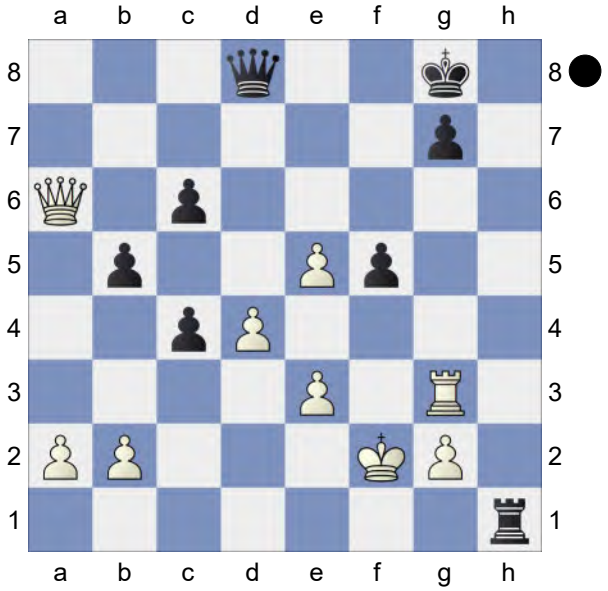
-0.91/22
[19.Kf2= -0.09/21]
19...Qxh4∓ 20.Qe1



And now f5 would win. **20...f5! 21.Nxh5** Discovered Attack **21...Qe7 22.Bf3**
[22.Qg3? Nhf8 23.Nxg7+ *(23.Qh3? Bxh5 24.Bd3 Rh6-+)* 23...Qxg7-+]
22...Bxh5 23.Bxh5+ Kf8 24.Nd1 Nb6 -0.36/21
[24...Kg8∓ -0.75/21]
25.Bg6∓ Qe6 26.Qb4+ Kg8 27.Bxh7+ Rxh7 28.Rf3 Re8 29.Nf2 Nc4 30.Nd3
[30.Qxb7? g5 31.Qa6 gxf4-+ *(31...g4 32.Rg3∓)*]
30...Rh4 0.01/24
[30...Nxe3? 31.Re1+- *(31.Qxb7 Nxg2 32.Ne5 g5=)*]
[Black should play 30...Qh6∓ -0.58/22 31.Rxc4 dxc4 32.Qxc4+ Qe6]
31.Ne5
[31.Qxb7 is interesting. Nd2 32.Rg3 Rg4 33.Rxc6 Qe4 34.Rxg4 fxg4 35.Rc8]
31...b5 32.Qc5 Qh6 33.Kf2 Re6 34.Rxc4 dxc4 0.79/24
[34...bxc4= -0.01/23 remains equal. 35.Rg3 Rh1 36.Qxa7 Qf6]
35.Qxa7± Qf6! 36.Rg3 -0.01/23
[36.a4!± 0.45/22]
36...Rh1= White should prevent ...Rb1.
37.Nd7 Qd8 Threatens to win with ... Re7. **38.Ne5 Re7 39.Qa6** -1.48/23
[39.Qa3= -0.01/26 Re6 40.Qa7]



39...Rxe5!∓ 40.fxe5 Endgame.



KQR-KQR **40...f4! 41.Rh3**
[41.exf4 is a self mate. Qxd4+ 42.Re3 Qxf4+ *(42...Qxb2+ 43.Kg3∓)* 43.Ke2 Qf1+ 44.Kd2 Qc1+ *(44...Qxg2+? 45.Kc3-+)* 45.Ke2 Re1+ *(45...Qxb2+? 46.Kf3-+)* 46.Kf3

Qxe3+ 47.Kg4 Qe4+ *(47...Qxe5 48.Qc8+ Kh7 49.Qf5+ Qxf5+ 50.Kxf5 b4 51.g4 c3 52.bxc3 bxc3 53.Kf4 c2 54.g5 c1Q+ 55.Kg4 Qc4+ 56.Kf3 Qd3+ 57.Kf4 Re4+ 58.Kf5 Qf3#)* 48.Kg5 Qxg2+ 49.Kf5 Rf1+ *(49...Qxb2 50.Ke6 Rxe5+ 51.Kd7 Qd4+ 52.Kc8 Re8+ 53.Kc7 Re7+ 54.Kxc6 Re6+ 55.Kxb5 Qd5+* Deflection *56.Kb4 Rxa6 57.Kc3 Rb6 58.Kc2 Qd3+ 59.Kc1 Rb1#)* 50.Ke6 Qd5+ *(50...Qxb2? 51.Qb6-+)* 51.Ke7 Rf7+ 52.Ke8 Qd7#]

[41.Rg4 fxe3+]

41...fxe3+ 42.Ke2 Rb1 0.71/24

[42...Rxh3∓ -1.57/22 and life is bright. 43.gxh3 Qxd4 44.Qc8+ Kf7 45.Qc7+ Kg6 46.Qd6+ Qxd6 47.exd6 Kf6 48.Kxe3 Ke6]

43.Qxc6± Intending Qe6+ and mate.

43...Rxb2+ 44.Kf3! White threatens Qe6+ and mate. The board is on fire.

44...Qf8+

[Weaker is 44...Qxd4 45.Qe8#]

45.Ke4! Rf2! Strongly threatening ... Qf4+. **46.Qe6+ Rf7?** 1.93/22

[46...Qf7± 0.42/23 47.Qxf7+ Kxf7 48.Rxe3 Rxg2]

47.Rxe3? -0.01/17

[Only move: 47.Qg6!+- 1.93/22 Rf4+ 48.Kxe3]

47...Qa8+= The position is equal.

48.d5⇄ aiming for Rf3. White puts up resistance **48...Qxa2 49.Qc8+**

[49.Rf3!? Qb1+□ 50.Kd4 Qg1+ 51.Kc3 Qe1+ 52.Kc2 Qe2+ 53.Kc1 Qe1+ 54.Kc2 Qe4+ 55.Kc3 Qe1+ 56.Kb2 Qd2+ 57.Ka3 Qa5+ 58.Kb2 Qd2+ 59.Ka1 Qd4+ 60.Ka2 Qd2+ 61.Ka3 Qa5+ 62.Kb2 Qd2+=]

49...Rf8 50.Qe6+ Rf7 51.Qc8+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)

[51.Rf3!? Qb1+□ 52.Kd4 Qg1+ 53.Kc3 Qe1+ 54.Kd4 Qg1+ 55.Re3=]

½-½

E38

□ **Erigaisi,Arjun** **2801**

■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2768**

87th Tata Steel Masters (12.5) 01.02.25

[Kitty Kat]

E38: Nimzo-Indian: Classical: 4...c5

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d6

[4...0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b6 7.Nf3 Bb7 8.e3 d6 9.b4 Nbd7 10.Bb2 c5 11.Be2 Qe7 12.0-0 Rfc8 13.dxc5 dxc5 14.Rfd1 Ne8 15.b5 f6 16.a4 a5 17.bxa6 Rxa6 18.a5 Rca8 19.Qd2 ½-½ (25) Hantel,T (2809)-Id2 (2690) DSEM 30 Apolda 1996 (2.1)]

5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 c5 7.Nf3N

[7.Nge2 Nc6 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.Qxc3 b6 10.a3 a5 11.b3 Ba6 12.Bb2 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Ne5 14.Bc2 Rc8 15.a4 Nd5 16.Qd2 Nb4 17.Rfc1 Qh4 18.f4 Ng4 19.Nf3 Qe7 20.e4 Bb7 21.Re1 e5 0-1 (53) Ortega Amarelle,M (2453)-Romanov,E (2567) Olympiad-45 Budapest 2024 (3.41)]

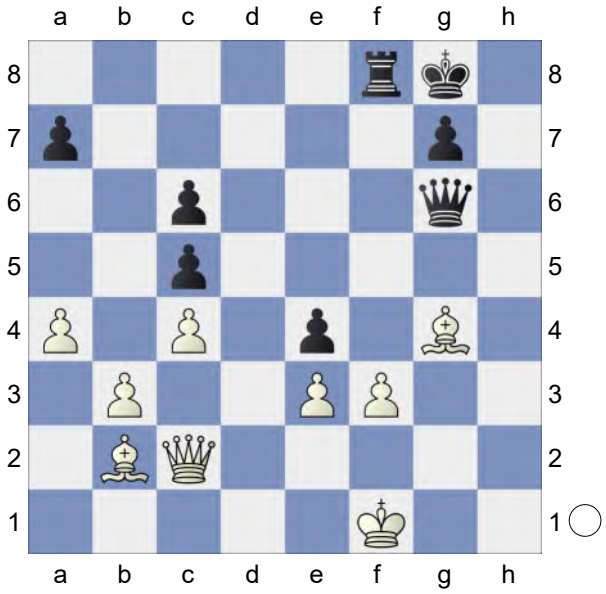
7...Nc6 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.Qxc3 Qe7 0.60/20

[9...e5= 0.18/19 10.d5 e4 11.dxc6 exf3]

10.dxc5± dxc5 11.Ne5 Nxe5 White is slightly better. **12.Qxe5 Rd8 13.Bc2 Ng4 14.Qg3 e5 15.f3 Nf6 16.b3 Nh5 17.Qf2 Bd7 18.Bb2 Bc6 19.Rad1 h6 20.h3 Nf6 21.Qg3 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Re8 23.a4** White is more active. **23...Nh5 24.Qf2 Qg5?** 3.28/22

[24...b6± 0.65/21]

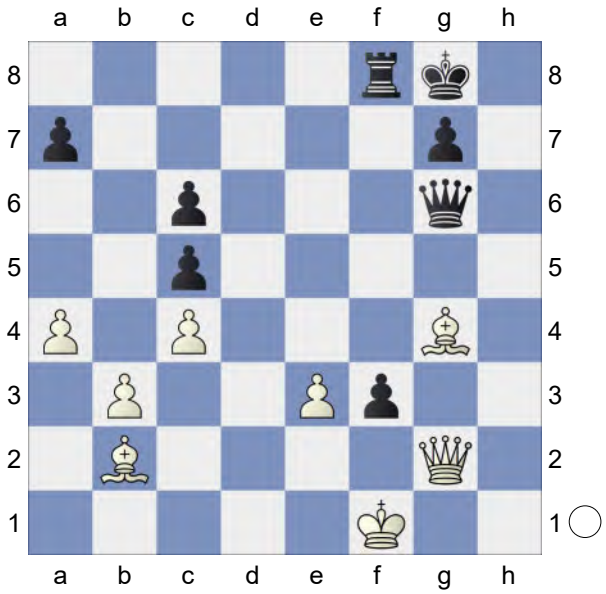
25.g4+- f5 26.h4
[26.Bxf5 Rf8 27.Be6+ Kh8]
26...Qg6 27.Bxf5 Qf7 28.Rd6 Nf6 29.g5 hxg5 30.hxg5 Nh5 31.Bg4
[31.Bh7+ Kxh7 32.g6+ Qxg6+ 33.Rxg6 Kxg6]
31...Qe7 32.Rxc6 0.87/23
[32.Rg6+- 3.38/25 has better winning chances.]
32...bxc6± 33.Bxh5 Qxg5+ 34.Bg4 Black must now prevent Kf1. **34...e4** ...exf3 would now be deadly. **35.Kf1! Qg6 36.Qc2 Rf8?** 3.93/23
[36...Re7± 0.89/21]



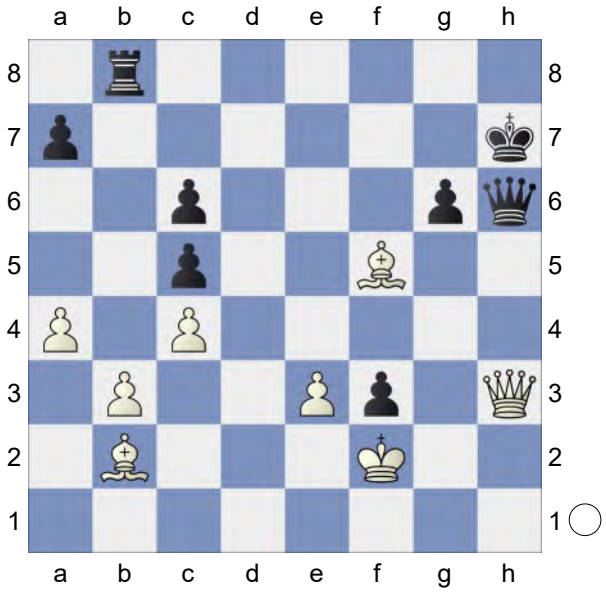
37.Qg2!+-
[37.Ke1 Qh6 38.Qxe4 *(38.fxe4? Qh4+ 39.Kd2 Qxg4-+)* 38...Qh1+ 39.Ke2 *(39.Kd2 Rd8+ 40.Bd4 cxd4=)* 39...Qg2+ 40.Ke1 Qg1+ 41.Kd2 Rd8+=]
37...exf3

(Diagram)

38.Be6+! Deflection **38...Kh7 39.Qh3+ Qh6 40.Kf2 Rb8 41.Bf5+** This pair of bishops is nice.

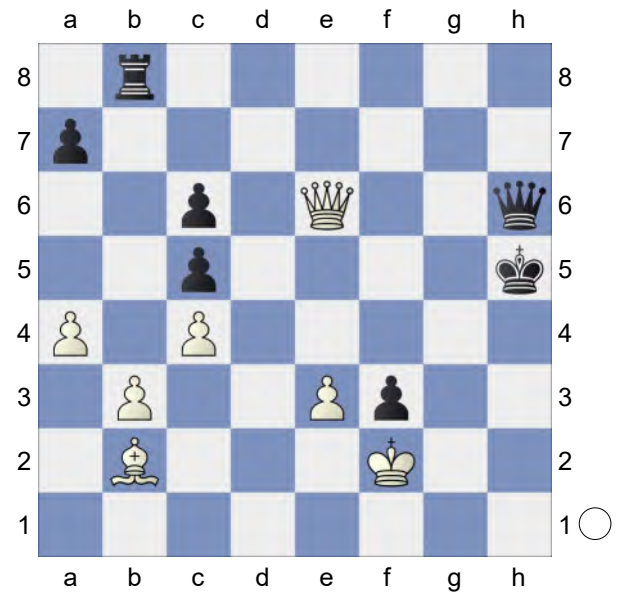


[41.Kxf3 Qxh3+ 42.Bxh3 Rxb3±]
41...g6 7.10/24
[⌓41...Kg8 4.69/26 42.Be6+ *(42.Kxf3 Qxh3+ 43.Bxh3 Rxb3+-; 42.Qxf3 Rxb3 43.Be5 Qh4+ 44.Qg3 Qxg3+ 45.Bxg3 Rb4±)* 42...Kh7 43.Qf5+ *(43.Kxf3 Qxh3+ 44.Bxh3 Rxb3±)* 43...Kh8]



42.Bxg6+! Decoy **42...Kxg6 43.Qe6+ Kh5**

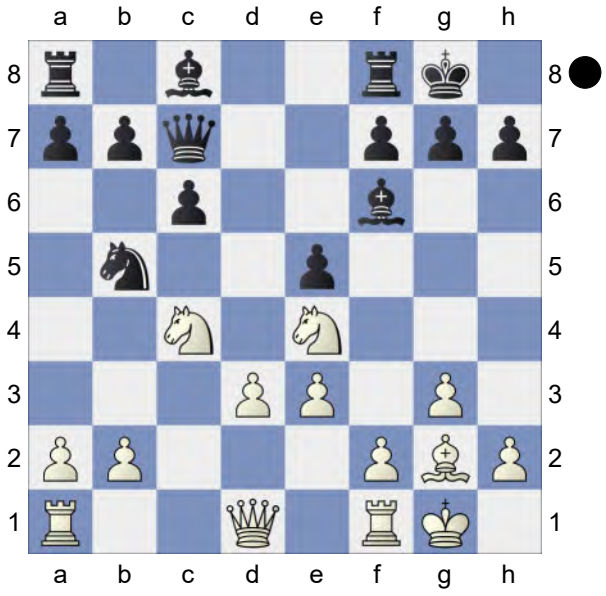
(Diagram)



44.Bf6! Qh7 Wards off Qf5+ **45.Qe5+**
[And not 45.Qxc6 Qf5 *(45...Rxb3 46.Qxc5+ Kg6 47.Qd6=)* 46.Be7 a6∓ *(46...Rxb3 47.Qe8+ Kh6 48.Bf8+ Kh7 49.Qe7+ Kg6 50.Qd6+ Qf6 51.Qxf6+ Kxf6 52.Bxc5=; 46...Kg4? 47.e4+-)*]
[45.Kxf3 Rg8±]
45...Kg6 46.Qxb8
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.33
1-0

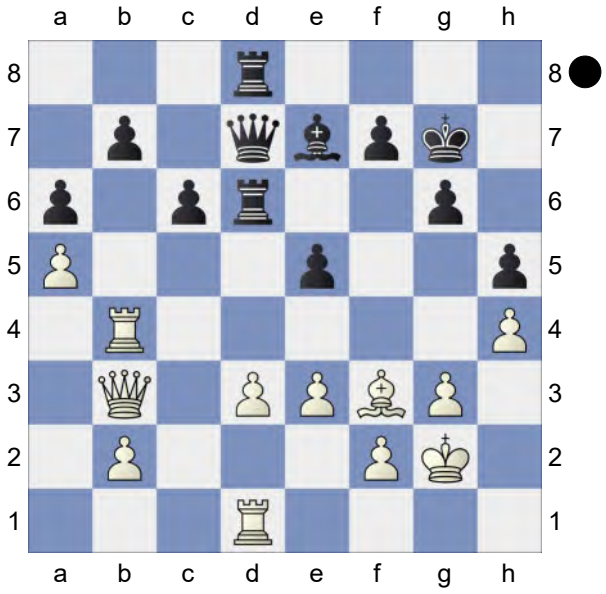
A20
□ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir3** **2717**
87th Tata Steel Masters (12.6) 01.02.25
[Kitty Kat]

A20: English Opening: 1...e5
1.c4 e5 2.g3 d5
[2...Nf6 3.Bg2 Bc5 4.Nc3 c6 5.Nf3 e4 6.Nh4 d5 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.d3 Ng4 9.0-0 g5 10.dxe4 gxh4 11.Bf4 hxg3 12.Bxg3 Bd6 13.Qd3 Bxg3 14.Qxg3 Be6 15.exd5 Bc8 16.Nb5 Na6 17.Rac1 ½-½ (35) Caruana,F (2822)-Van Foreest,J (2644) Tata Steel-A 82nd 2020 (5)]
3.cxd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3 Nc6N
[4...Qa5 5.Bg2 Bd6 6.0-0 c5 7.Ng5 Nf6 8.Qb3 0-0 9.Bxb7 Bxb7 10.Qxb7 Nbd7 11.d3 Rab8 12.Qg2 Qa6 13.Nd2 h6 14.Nge4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bc7 16.Nc3 Qb7 17.b3 Ba5 18.Qxb7 Rxb7 19.Bb2 ½-½ (88) Polklaeser,G-Danner,H H2045D corr 1999 (36)]
[4...e4 5.Nc3 Qc6 6.Nd4 Qd7 7.Qa4 Qxa4 8.Nxa4 a6 9.Bg2 Nf6 10.Nc3 Bd6 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 0-0 13.0-0 Re8 14.Bg2 c5 15.Nb3 Rxe2 16.d4 cxd4 17.Nxd4 Re8 18.Bd2 Nd7 19.Rfe1 1-0 (23) Kandyba,L (1072)-7.e3 c5 8. ♗b5 (1079) ch-Torre Blanca 2005]
[4...Bb4 5.a3 e4 6.axb4 exf3 7.e3 *(7.Nc3 Qh5 8.d4* 1 c4 e5 2 g3 Others-1 c4 e5 2 g3 Others 12*)* 7...Nf6 8.Nc3 Qf5 9.Ra5 Qg4 10.b5 Qh5 11.Qa4 A 20/04 2000]
5.d3 Nf6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.Nc3 Qd6 8.Bg5 White has an edge. **8...Nd4 9.Nd2 c6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nc4 Qc7 12.e3 Nb5 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Ne4**



Strongly threatening a4. **14...Be7 15.a4 Nd6 16.Nexd6 Bxd6 17.a5 Rd8 18.Qc2 a6 19.Nb6 Rb8 20.Nxc8 Rbxc8 21.Ra4 Be7 22.Rd1 Rd6 23.Qb3 Rcd8 24.h4 g6 25.Bf3 h5 26.Kg2 Kg7 27.Qc3 Bf6** Hoping for ... e4! **28.Qc2 Qd7 29.Rb4 Be7 30.Qb3?** -2.70/23

[30.d4= -0.01/21]



Now White is beyond hope. **30...Rf6!-+**
31.Rxb7? -4.62/23

[31.Be4 -2.64/22 Bxb4 32.Qxb4]

31...Qf5! Black is clearly winning.
32.Be4 -8.10/23

[⌓32.Kg1 -4.58/22 Qxf3 33.Rf1]

32...Qxf2+ 33.Kh3 g5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.78/ Black=0.05 (flawless)
0-1

C55
□ **Mendonca,Leon Luke 2639**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano 2803**
87th Tata Steel Masters (12.7) 01.02.25
[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7

[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0

A) 6...Be7 7.Re1 f6 *(7...Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.Bb5 0-0 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Rxe5 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Bf6 13.Re2 Qd7 14.Nd2 Rab8 15.c3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bxc3 17.Rb1 Bxd2 18.Rxb8 Bxc1 19.Rxf8+ Kxf8 20.Qe4 Bb2 21.Qb4+* 1-0 Tanenbaum,Z (2157)-Osinovsky,S (2241) Titled Tuesday intern op 22nd Nov Early blitz 2022 (7) *)* 8.d4 Nb6 9.Bb5 0-0 10.dxe5 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 fxe5 13.Nc3 Bg4 14.Re1 Bh4 15.Be3 Bf5 16.Na4 Bxc2 17.Nxb6 cxb6 18.Bc4+ Kh8 19.Bd5 Bd3 20.Bxb7 Rab8 21.Bd5 0-1 (74) 3.c3 ♗g7 4.♗g5_30545 (2123)-Hauge,L (2379) Cappelle op 25th 2009 (3);

B) 6...Nb6 7.Bb5 Bd6 8.d4 e4 9.Re1 f5 10.Bg5 Qd7 11.c4 0-0 12.c5 exf3 13.cxb6 Qf7 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Qxf3 axb6 16.Nc3 f4 17.Qxc6 Bd7 18.Qd5 Qxd5 19.Nxd5 1-0 (41) Rojas Keim,L (2680)-Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2738) Metz op 28th 2010 (5.5)]

5.Nc3N

[5.c3 0-0 6.Nbd2 d6 7.Bb3 Na5 8.Bc2 c5 9.Nf1 Nc6 10.Ne3 h6 11.Nd5 Be6 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.0-0 d5 14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Re1 Rfe8

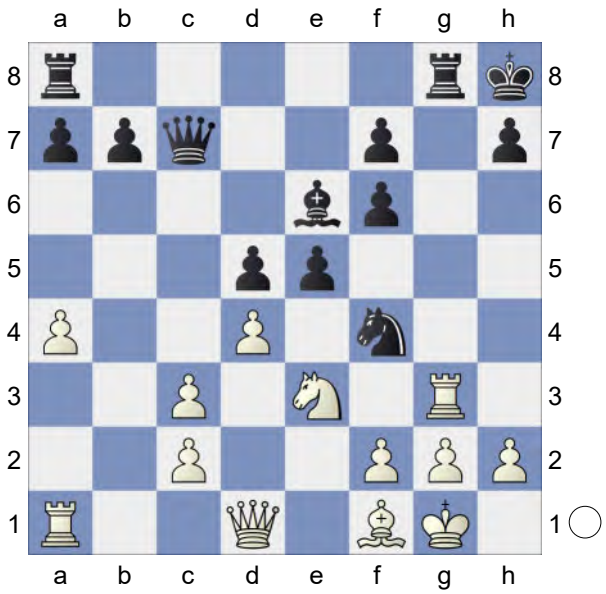
16.Bf4 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Qd7 18.Bxh6 gxh6 19.Qxf6 Re6 1-0 (22) Steinle,T (2087)-Grill,M (2148) FRA-ch op-A Aix les Bains 2003 (5)]

[5.0-0 0-0 6.Nc3 d6 7.a3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nd4 10.Qd1 c6 11.f4 exf4 12.Rxf4 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Ba2 Bc5 15.Kh1 Re8 16.Rf1 Ne6 17.g4 d4 18.Na4 Be7 19.g5 Nd7 ½-½ (56) Edighoffer,H-Melton,R APCT King ch-1 1996]

5...0-0 6.a4 Bb4 7.0-0 Bxc3 8.bxc3 White has an edge. **8...d6 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Bb5 Ne7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.d4 Ng6 13.Re1 c6 14.Bf1 Qa5 15.Re3 Kh8 16.Nd2** 0.28/17

[White should play 16.c4± 0.75/17]

16...Rg8 17.Rg3 Nf4 18.Nc4 Qc7 19.Ne3 d5 20.exd5 cxd5



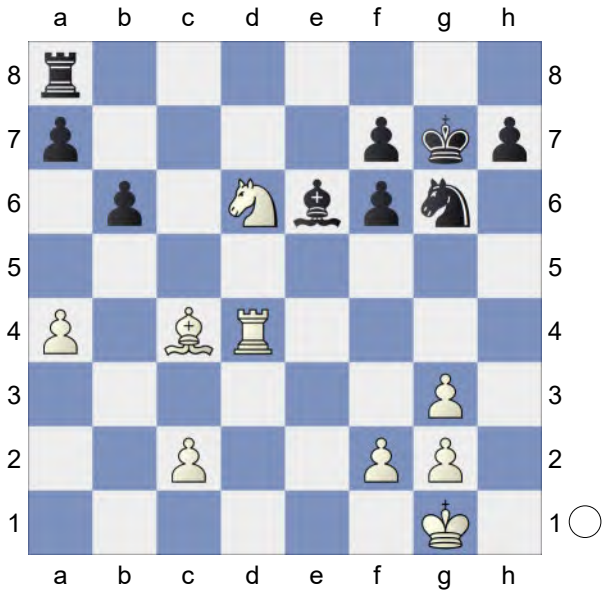
21.c4 exd4

[21...dxc4 22.d5]

22.Qxd4 Qe5 23.Rd1 dxc4 24.Nxc4 Qxd4 25.Rxd4 Rxg3 26.hxg3 Ng6 27.Nd6 b6 28.Bc4 Kg7 1.09/22

[28...Kg8= 0.30/23 remains equal.]

(Diagram)

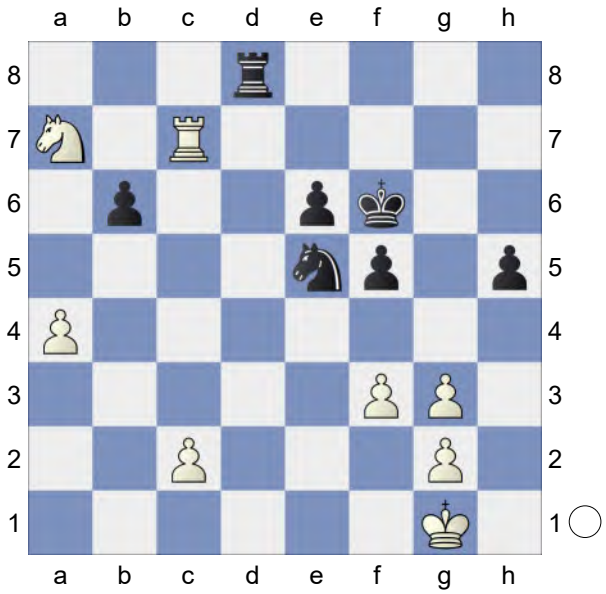


29.Bxe6!± fxe6 Endgame. KRN-KRN **30.Rc4 f5! 31.Rc7+** Skewer **31...Kf6! 32.Nc8** 0.47/23 White has more active pieces.

[32.Rf7+± 0.89/23 Ke5 33.Nc4+ Kd4 34.Ne3]

32...Ne5 33.f3 h5! 34.Nxa7 Rd8 1.08/24

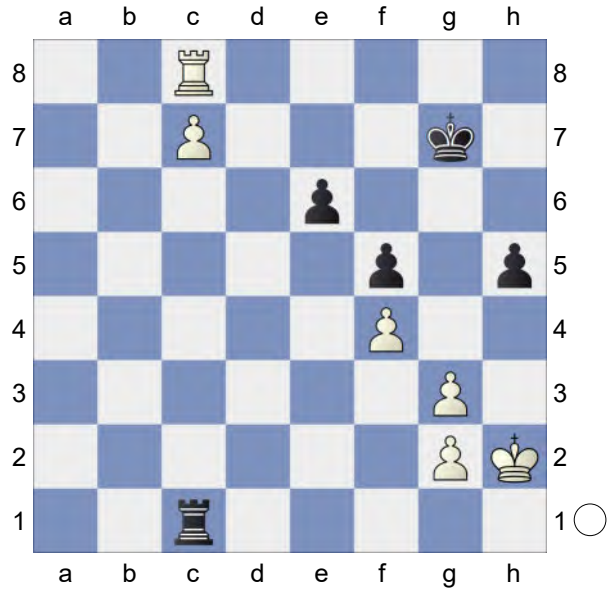
[34...Ng6± 0.57/23]



35.Nc8! Rd7 1.62/27

[35...Rd1+± 0.94/26 keeps fighting. 36.Kh2 Rd2]

36.Rc3+- Rd1+ 37.Kh2 Nd7 38.Rc6 0.74/25
[White should try 38.Rd3 1.41/24 Rxd3 39.cxd3]
38...Rd4± 39.Nxb6 0.01/24
[39.Rc7± 1.02/24]
39...Nxb6= Remove Defender. The position is equal. **40.Rxb6** a5 would now be deadly. **40...Rxa4±** KR-KR **41.Rc6 Ra1 42.c4 Rc1 43.c5 Kf7 44.f4 Kf6 45.Rc8 Kg7 46.c6 Kf7 47.c7 Kg7**



Dodges Rh8 **48.g4! hxg4 49.Kg3 Rc2 50.Kh4 Rc3 51.Kg5 Rc1 52.g3 Rc2 53.Re8 Rxc7 54.Rxe6 Rc3! 55.Kxf5 Rxg3 56.Rg6+ Kf7 57.Rxg4**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
½-½

D04
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
■ **Warmerdam,Max** **2646**
87th Tata Steel Masters (13.1) 02.02.25
[Kitty Kat]

D04: Colle System
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 a6N
[3...c5 4.b3 *(4.c4 cxd4 5.exd4 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Bf4 Nc6 11.Be2 b6 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Rfe1 Rc8 14.Qb2 Na5 15.Nd2 Qd5 16.Bf1 Qf5 17.Bg3 e6 18.Rad1 Rfd8* ½-½ (28) Kluegel,J (2500)-Nickel,A (2630) 30/A (SUI) ICCF 2015*)* 4...Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Bb2 Be7 *(7...cxd4 8.exd4 Bd6 9.h3 Bh5 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Re1 a5 12.Ne5 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 a4 14.c4 Bb4 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Rec1 Qa5 17.Nf3 a3 18.Ne5 axb2 19.Qxb2 Ba3* 0-1 Primbetov,K (2156)-Aditya,M (2486) Speed Chess Q2 blitz 2022 (1) *)* 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.c4 Rc8 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Rc1 Be7 D 04/01 2003]
[3...c6 4.Be2 Bg4 5.b3 Bxf3 6.Bxf3 e6 7.Bb2 Bd6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.c4 Qe7 10.Nd2 0-0 11.Re1 Rad8 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 Nf6 15.Bd3 Ba3 16.Bc3 Bb4 17.Qd2 Bxc3 18.Qxc3 1-0 (37) 1.d4 d6/3.♘f3 e4 4. ♘g5_10 (2303)-Van Heeren,A (1893) Prague International Open 2020 (3.37) Qd6 19.Rad1 Kh8 20.Bc2 Rd7 21.Re3 Rfd8 22.b4 Qf4 23.g3 Qc7 24.Kg2 Qb6 25.Rf3 Kg8 26.Rf4 e5 27.dxe5 Rxd1 28.Bxd1 Rxd1 29.exf6 Qd8 30.Rg4 Rg1+ 31.Kh3 Qd7 32.Qe5 Re1 33.Qxe1 1-0 (37) 1.d4 d6/3.Nf3 e4 4.Ng5 (2303)-Van Heeren,A (1893) Prague International Open 2020 (3.37)]
4.h3 e6 5.b3 b6 6.Bb2 Bb7 7.Nbd2 Nbd7 8.Bd3 The position is equal. **8...Bd6 9.c4 0-0 10.0-0 Qe7 11.Ne5 Ne4 12.Rc1 Bxe5** 0.58/22
[12...Nxd2= 0.13/20 13.Qxd2 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Bb4]
13.dxe5± Ndc5 14.Bb1 Rfd8 15.cxd5 Nxd2 0.50/21

[Black should try 15...Rxd5= 0.00/22 16.Bd4 Nxd2 17.Qxd2 a5]

16.Qxd2 Bxd5 0.84/22

[16...Rxd5± 0.44/22 17.Qc2 g6]

17.Bd4 0.01/23

[17.Qe2± 0.84/22]

17...Ne4= 18.Qe2 c5 19.Bb2 Qg5 aiming for ...Nc3! **20.f4 Qe7 21.Rfd1 a5 22.Bd3** -0.57/21

[22.Qf3= -0.16/22 Nc3 23.Bxh7+ Kf8 24.Rxd5 Nxd5 25.Bd3]

22...a4∓ 23.bxa4 Rxa4 24.a3 Raa8 -0.48/20 Black is more active.

[Better is 24...Bb3∓ -1.11/22 25.Bc2 Bxc2 26.Qxc2 b5]

25.Kh2 h6 26.Qc2 Qb7 27.Bb5 Rac8 28.Qe2 Qa8 29.a4 Bb3 30.Rd3 Rxd3

[30...Bxa4 31.Ra1 Bxb5 *(31...Rxd3? 32.Rxa4 Rd2 33.Rxa8+-)* 32.Rxa8 Bxd3 33.Rxc8 Bxe2 34.Rxd8+ Kh7 35.Rd7±]

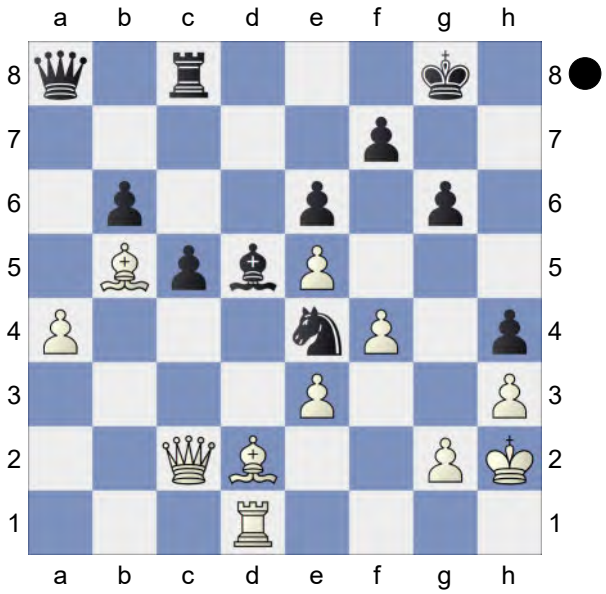
31.Qxd3 Bd5

[31...Bxa4 32.Ra1 Bxb5 33.Rxa8 Bxd3 34.Rxc8+ Kh7 35.Rf8±]

32.Qc2 g6 33.Rd1 h5 34.Bc1 -1.22/20

[⌓34.Be2 -0.83/20]

34...h4∓ 35.Bd2



Ng3! 36.Be1 Nf5 37.Rxd5? -3.66/22

[37.Ra1∓ -1.36/20 keeps fighting.]

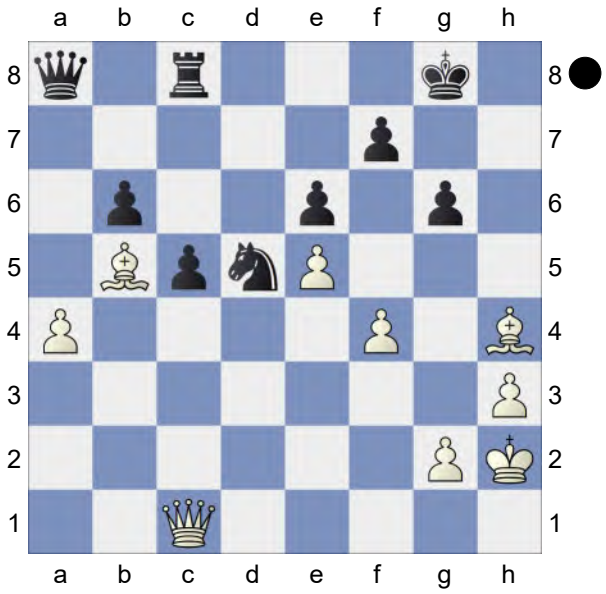
37...Nxe3 Double Attack

[37...exd5 38.Qe2-+]

38.Qc1 -4.14/20

[⌓38.Qe4 -2.87/20 Nxd5 *(38...Qxd5 39.Qxe3 c4 40.Bb4±)* 39.Bxh4]

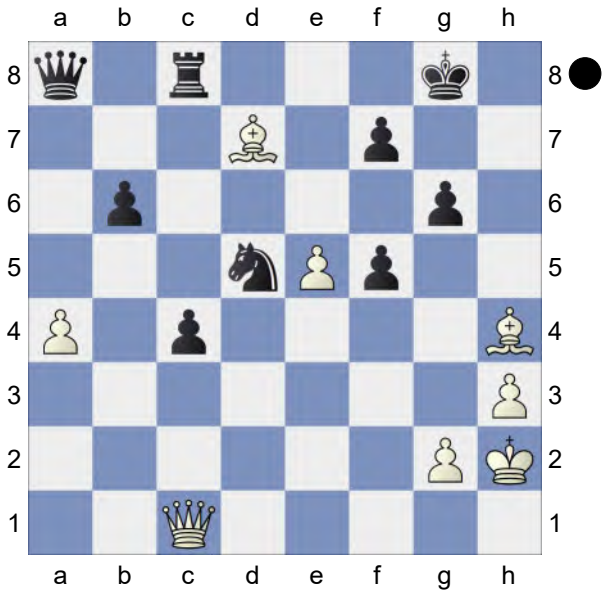
38...Nxd5-+ 39.Bxh4



c4! 40.f5 exf5

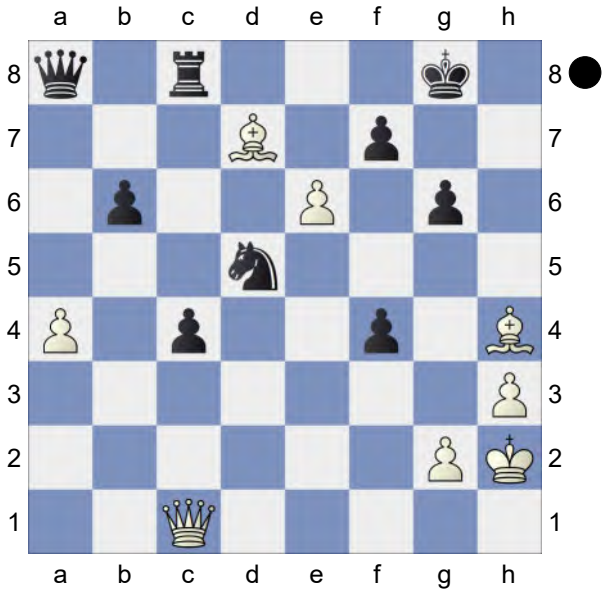
[40...gxf5? 41.Qg5+ Kh7 42.Qh5+ Kg7 43.Bf6+ Nxf6 44.Qg5+ Kh7 45.exf6+-]

41.Bd7

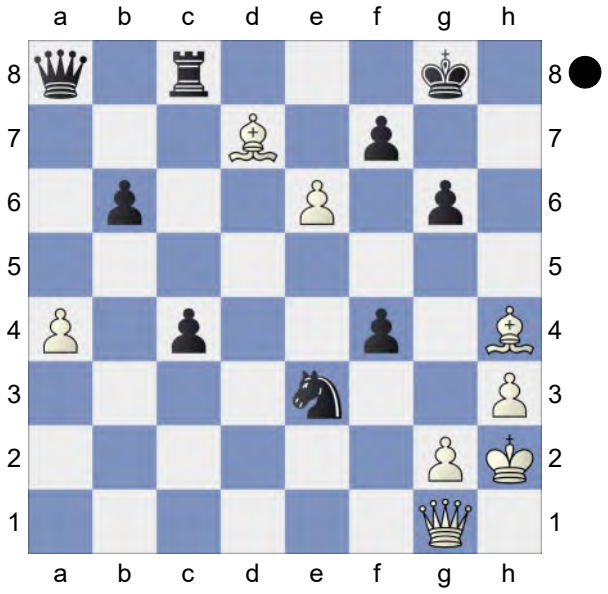


f4! Threatens to win with ...Ne3! **42.e6**

[42.Bxc8 Ne3]



42...Ne3! 43.Qg1



c3! ...c2! would now be deadly. **44.Bxc8 Qxc8** Endgame. KQB-KQN **45.e7 c2 46.Bg5 Kh7**

[46...c1B 47.Qxc1 *(47.Bxf4? Ng4+* Discovered Attack *48.Kg3 Bxf4+ 49.Kxf4 Nf6-+)* 47...Qxc1 48.e8Q+ *(48.e8B? Nf1+ 49.Kh1 Ng3+* Discovered Attack (Double Check) *50.Kh2 Qh1#)* 48...Kg7 49.Qe5+ *(49.Bxf4? Nf1+* Discovered Attack *50.Kg1 Qxf4-+)* 49...Kh7 50.Bxf4 Nf1+ 51.Kg1 Nd2+ 52.Kh2=]

47.Qe1 -7.90/30

[47.e8Q -3.95/22 Qxe8 48.Bxf4]

47...Qc6

[47...c1B? 48.Bf6 g5 *(48...Kg8? 49.Qxc1 Qe8 50.Qe1+-)* 49.Bxg5+-]

48.Qh4+ Kg8 49.e8Q+ Qxe8 50.Bf6 Nf1+

[50...c1B 51.Qh8#]

51.Kh1 Ng3+

[51...c1B 52.Qh8#]

52.Kh2 Nh5

[52...c1B 53.Qh8#]

53.Bb2 Kh7

[And not 53...Qxa4 54.Qd8+]

54.Qg5 Qe3

[54...Qxa4? 55.Qd8 f6 *(55...Ng7 56.Qf6 Kh6 57.Qxg7+ Kg5 58.Qf6+ Kh5 59.Qh8+ Kg5 60.Qd8+ f6 61.Qxf6+ Kh5 62.Qe5+ Kh6 63.Qg7+ Kg5 64.h4+ Kh5 65.Qh7+* Deflection *Kg4 66.Qxg6+ Kxh4 67.Bf6#)* 56.Qe7+ Kg8 57.Qd8+ Kh7 58.Qe7+ Kh6 59.Bxf6 Nxf6 *(59...c1B 60.Bg5#)* 60.Qxf6-+]

55.Qd5 Qg3+

[Weaker is 55...c1B 56.Qxf7+ Kh6 57.Qf8+ Kg5 58.Qd8+ Kh6 59.Qf8+ Kg5 60.Qd8+ Kh6 61.Qh8+ Kg5 62.Qd8+=]

56.Kg1 Qe1+ -2.83/5

[⌓56...c1Q+ -6.33/30 57.Bxc1 Qe1+ 58.Kh2 Qxc1 59.Qxf7+ Ng7]

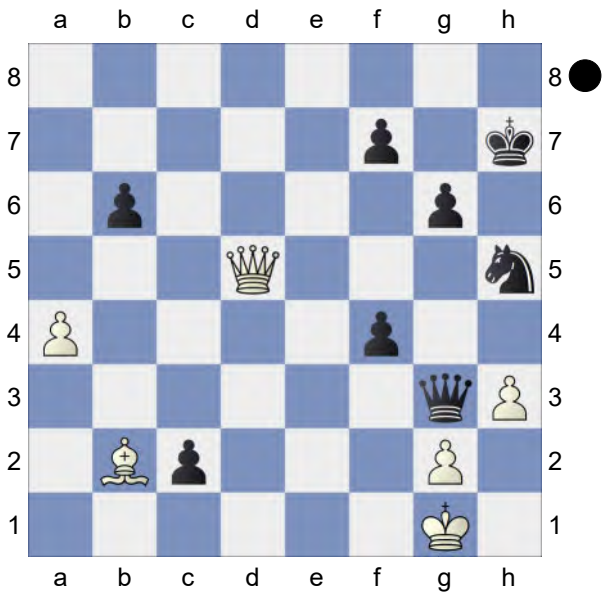
57.Kh2 Qg3+? 0.01/21

[Inferior is 57...c1B 58.Qxf7+ Kh6 59.Qf8+ Kg5 60.Qd8+ Kh6 61.Qh8+ Kg5 62.Qd8+ Kh6 63.Qh8+ Kg5 64.Qd8+=]

[57...f6-+ -5.56/23 58.Qf7+ Kh6 59.Qf8+ Kg5]

58.Kg1!=

(Diagram)

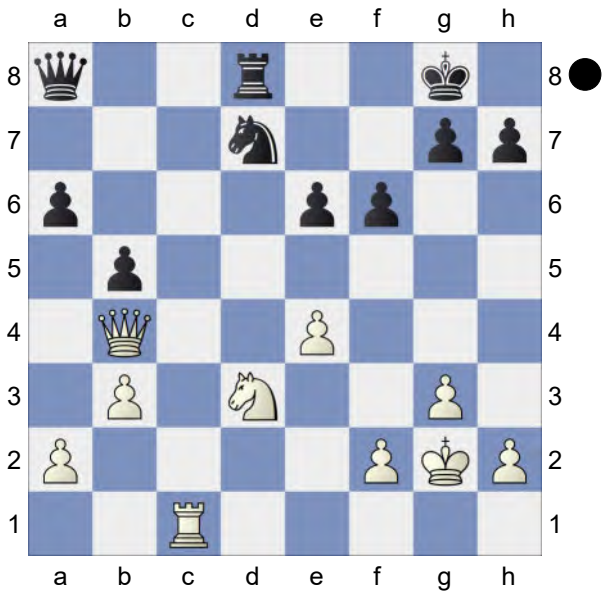


c1Q+! Decoy **59.Bxc1 Qe1+ 60.Kh2 Qg3+?** 0.01/24
[60...Qxc1-+ -5.55/23 61.Qxf7+ Ng7]
61.Kg1! Qe1+ 62.Kh2 Qxc1 63.Qxf7+ Ng7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/ Black=0.18 (very precise)
0-1

E05
□ **Fedoseev,Vladimir3** **2717**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2751**
87th Tata Steel Masters (13.2) 02.02.25
[Kitty Kat]

E05: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3 Be7
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qa4 a6N
[7...c6 8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Rd1 *(10.a4 Nbd7 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd5 13.Rd1 Qb6 14.Nc3 Nxc3 15.Qxc3 c5 16.Bxb7 Qxb7 17.axb5 Qxb5 18.Be3 a5 19.Rd2 c4 20.Rd4 Rfc8 21.Rc1 Bb4 22.Qc2 c3 23.f4 h5 24.Kf2 Bc5* 0-1 (44) Onslow,A (2171)-Sprenar,P (2296) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Early blitz 2023 (4) *)* 10...Nbd7 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd5 13.e4 Nb4 14.Qe2 Qc7 15.Nc3 Rfd8 16.Bf4 a5 17.h4 Rxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Rd8 19.a3 Na6 20.h5 h6 21.Rc1 Qd7 22.Be3 ½-½ (56) Pogonina,N (2432)-Lysenko,M (2228) RUS-ch Blitz (Women) 2022 (7)]
[7...Bd7 8.Qxc4 Bc6 9.Nc3 a6 10.a3 b5 11.Qd3 Bb7 12.Bg5 Nbd7 13.Rfd1 h6 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.b4 Qd6 16.Ne5 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Nd7 18.Nf3 Qb6 19.d5 Nf6 20.dxe6 fxe6 21.Ne5 Rad8 22.Qg6 (23) Kazakov,K (2465)-4.e3 ♗b4 5. ♘d5_37927 (2526) (ol) 34/490 Luzern 1982 Bd6 23.Nf3 Qb7 0-1 Borges Matos,J (2385)-Ruban,V (2575) Santa Clara 1991 (4)]
[7...Nbd7 8.Qxc4 c5 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Nc3 Bd7 11.Ne5 Rc8 12.Nxd7 Nfxd7 13.Rd1 Qe8 14.Bf4 a6 15.Bd6 b5 16.Qb4 Nb6 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Ne4 Nd5 19.Qa5 Na4 20.Qxa6 Nxb2 21.Rdb1 Qb4 22.Qd6 1-0 (59) Enigl,K (2345)-Zavernyaev,V 37th Metz Open 2019 (9)]
8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Bd2 Bd6 11.Re1 Be4 12.Qc1 Bb7 13.Be3 Nbd7 14.Nbd2 Nd5 0.39/19
[14...a5= -0.07/18]
15.Nb3± Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Rc8 0.63/19
[16...a5= 0.21/18]
17.Rec1 Bd5 18.Nfd2 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 c5 20.Ne4!
[20.dxc5 Nxc5 21.Nd4 Qd7=]
20...cxd4 21.Nxd4 Nc5 22.Nxd6
[22.Nxe6? Nxe6 23.Rd1 *(23.Rxc8? Qxc8 24.Nxd6 Qc6+ 25.Ne4 f5-+* Pin *)* 23...Rc6-+]
22...Qxd6 23.Nf3 Na4 24.b3 Nb6 25.Qd4 Qb8 26.e4 Inhibits Nd5.

26...Qb7 27.Ne5 f6 28.Nd3 Rfd8 29.Rxc8 Qxc8 30.Qe3 Nd7 31.Rc1 Qb7 32.Qd4 Qa8 33.Qb4



Qe7 would now be deadly. **33...Nf8 34.Nc5 Rc8 35.Qd2** Dodges Nd7 **35...Rd8 36.Qe3 Kf7 37.Nd3** White is more active. **37...Rc8 38.Rd1 Nd7 39.Qd4 Rc7 40.Rd2 Qb7 41.Qe3 Rc8 42.Nf4 Ne5 43.Rd6 Rc6 44.Rd8 Rc8 45.Rxc8 Qxc8=** Endgame. KQN-KQN **46.Qa7+ Nd7 47.Nd3 Qc6 48.Kf3 Ke7 49.Ke3 Qc3 50.f4**

[50.Qxa6? is the wrong capture. Qxd3+ 51.Kxd3 Nc5+ 52.Kc3 Nxa6-+]

[50.Qd4 simplifies Qxd4+ 51.Kxd4 Kd6 52.b4]

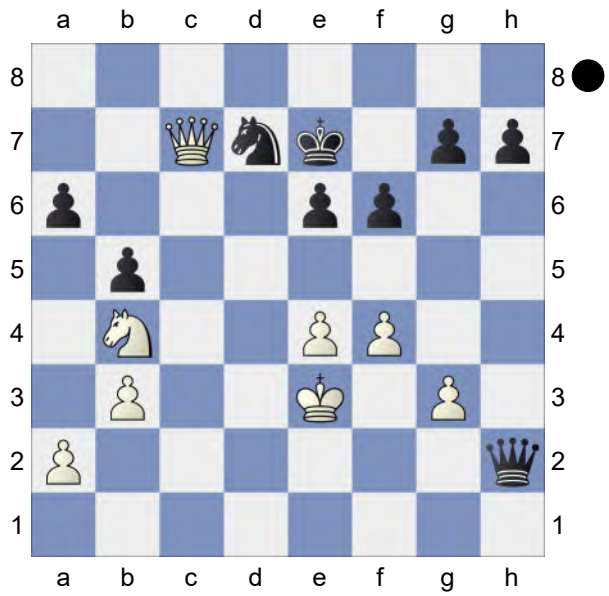
50...Qc2 51.Nb4!

[51.Qxa6? perishes. Qxd3+ *(51...Qxh2 52.Qxb5 Qxg3+ 53.Ke2∓)* 52.Kxd3 Nc5+ 53.Kd4 Nxa6-+]

51...Qxh2 52.Qc7!

(Diagram)

White wants to mate with Nc6+. The position is equal. **52...Qxg3+ 53.Ke2**



Qg2+ 54.Ke3 Qg1+ 55.Ke2 Threatens to win with Nc6+. **55...Qg2+ 56.Ke3** aiming for Nc6+. **56...Qh3+ 57.Kd2! e5** Hoping for ...Qg2+. **58.Nd5+ Ke8** ...Qg2+ is the strong threat. **59.Qc8+ Kf7 60.f5 Qg2+ 61.Ke3 Qh3+ 62.Kd2 Qg2+ 63.Ke3 Qg1+ 64.Ke2 Qh2+ 65.Ke3 Qg1+ 66.Ke2 Qg2+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)

½-½

C44

□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek 2768**

■ **Harikrishna,Pentala 2695**

87th Tata Steel Masters (13.3) 02.02.25

[Kitty Kat]

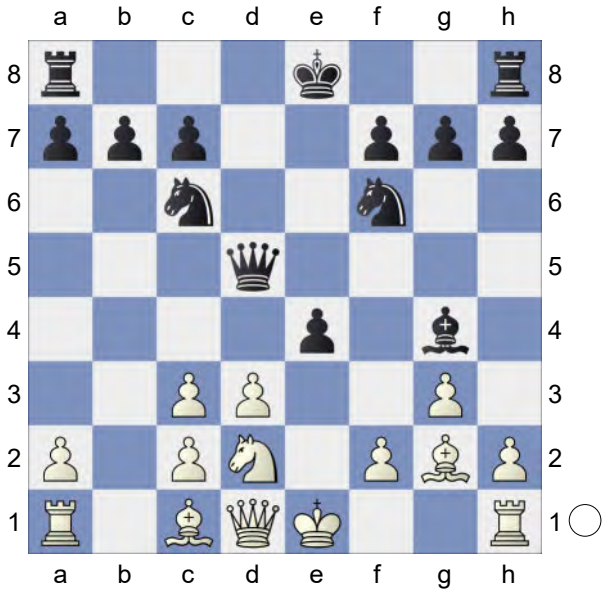
C44: Ponziani Opening and Scotch Gambit

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.d3 d5 5.exd5N

[5.Nbd2 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 *(6...dxe4 7.dxe4 0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.Re1 Bb7 10.b3 Bc5 11.Bb2 Ng4 12.Rf1 Ba6 13.c4 f6 14.a3 Bc8 15.h3 Nh6*

16.b4 Bd4 17.Qc2 Bxb2 18.Qxb2 Be6 19.c5 Qd7 20.b5 Na5 21.c6 (24) Open Game-3.Nf3 Nf6 Survey 2004 *)* 7.0-0 Be6 8.h3 a5 9.Re1 d4 10.a4 Nd7 11.b3 Nb4 12.g4 c6 13.Nf1 b5 14.Ng3 bxa4 15.bxa4 c5 16.Nf5 c4 17.h4 Rc8 18.Rf1 Re8 19.g5 Bf8 0-1 (27) Frutos Moreno,E (1114)-Cantero,R (2083) Asuncion zt 2.5 2023 (1) 20.h5 Nc5 21.g6 Bxf5 22.Ng5 fxg6 23.exf5 gxf5 24.dxc4 Be7 25.Nf3 Bf6 26.Ba3 e4 27.Ne1 d3 0-1 Gligoric (1114)-Monostori,L (2083) (Game 21) Oslo 2005 (1)]

5...Qxd5 aiming for ...e4. **6.Bg2 e4 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Nd2 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Bg4**



10.Nxe4! 0-0-0 11.f3 Rhe8! 12.Qe2 -0.34/25

[12.fxg4= 0.04/21 should be considered. Nxe4 Pin 13.Be3]

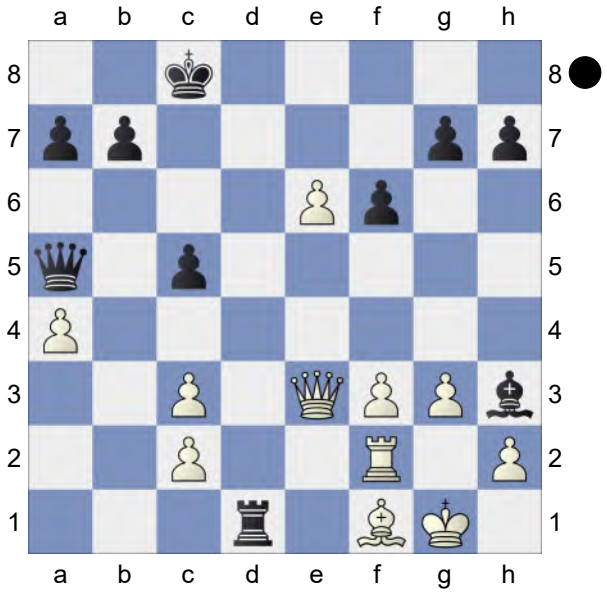
12...Nxe4

[12...Qa5!? 13.Bd2 Nxe4 14.dxe4 Be6∓]

13.dxe4 Qa5 14.0-0 Be6 Black has compensation. **15.Qe1 Ne5**

[15...Bxa2 16.Rf2±]

16.Be3 Nc4 17.Bd4 f6 18.Rf2 Rd7 19.Bf1 Red8 20.a4 c5 21.Be3 Nxe3 22.Qxe3 Rd1 23.Rxd1 Rxd1 24.e5 Bh3! 25.e6



e7 would now be deadly. **25...Qxa4** 0.62/26

[Black should play 25...Qa6= -0.01/29 26.Qxc5+ Kb8 27.Qf8+ Kc7 28.Qxg7+ Kb6 29.a5+ Kc6 30.Qd7+ Rxd7 31.exd7 *(31.Bxa6 Rd1+ 32.Bf1 Kd6=)* 31...Qxa5 32.Bxh3 Kc7]

26.e7!±

[Much weaker is 26.Qxc5+ Qc6 27.Qf8+ *(27.Qxa7?* perishes. *Qc4-+; 27.Qxc6+? bxc6 28.g4 f5-+)* 27...Kc7 28.Qe7+ *(28.Qxg7+ Kb6=)* 28...Kc8=]

26...Qe8! 27.Qxc5+ Kb8 28.Qe3 Prevents Re1 **28...a5 29.g4 a4 30.c4! Kc7 31.Qc5+** 0.01/20

[31.f4± 0.48/22]

31...Kb8!= 32.Qe3 Kc7! 33.f4 The board is on fire. **33...Bxf1 34.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 35.Kxf1±** Endgame. KQ-KQ **35...Kd7 36.Qe4 Qa8 37.g5** White is much more active. **37...fxg5 38.fxg5 g6! 39.Qe5** The position is equal.

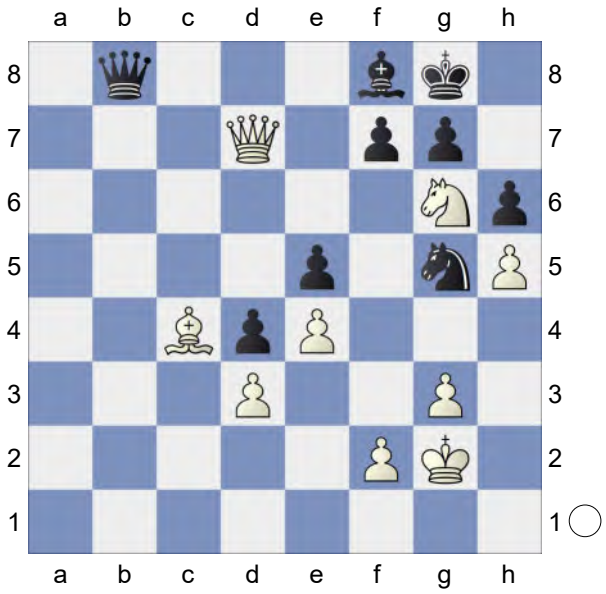
[39.e8N simplifies Qxe8 40.Qxb7+

Kd8 41.Qb6+]
39...Qe8 40.Qe4 Qf7+ 41.Kg2⇄ White is not keeping still **41...Ke8** ...Qf5 is the strong threat.
[41...Qxe7 simplifies 42.Qxb7+ Ke8 43.Qa8+ Kf7]
42.c5 Qf5 43.Qxa4+ Kxe7 44.h4 Qxc5 45.Qe4+ Kd6 46.Qf4+ Qe5 47.Qb4+ Qc5 48.Qf4+ Qe5 49.Qb4+ Qc5 50.Qf4+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

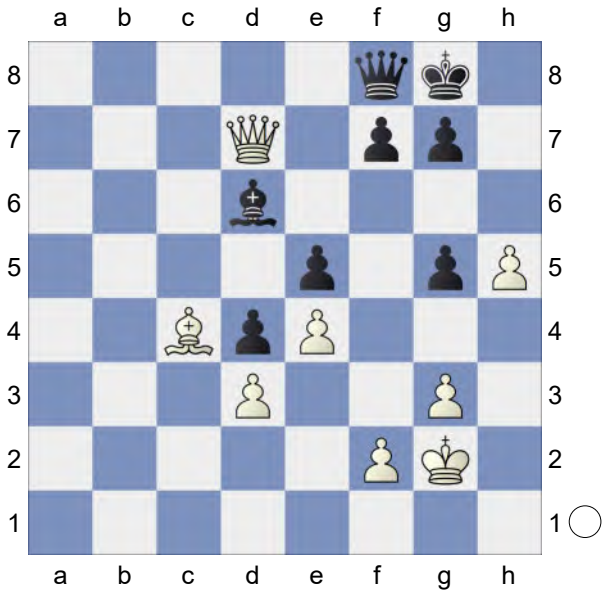
B11
□ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,R.** **2741**
87th Tata Steel Masters (13.4) 02.02.25
[Kitty Kat]

B11: Caro-Kann: Two Knights Variation
1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0-0 d4
[7...Bc5 8.Rd1 Bd4 9.Qf4 e5 10.Qg3 dxe4 *(10...0-0 11.d3 Kh8 12.Bg5 Qd6 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.exd5 cxd5 15.Nb5 Qb6 16.Nxd4 Qxd4 17.c3 Qb6 18.Bf3 Nd7 19.Bxd5 Qxb2 20.Rab1 Qxc3 21.Rxb7 Rad8 22.Qf3 Qc5 23.Be4 Qc2 24.Qf5* 1-0 Ochedzan,T (2236)-Gkavardinas,A (2101) Prague op 21st 2023 (5)*)* 11.d3 exd3 12.Bxd3 Nbd7 13.Ne2 0-0 14.Bf5 Nc5 15.Bh6 Nh5 16.Qg4 Qd6 17.Qxh5 Qxh6 18.Qxh6 gxh6 19.c3 1-0 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗c4 (2775)-Ciocaltea,V (2734) USSR Cht9 bd04 1988]
8.Nb1 Bd6N White is slightly better.
[8...Be7 9.d3 0-0 10.Qg3 Kh8 11.Nd2 c5 12.f4 Nc6 13.Qf2 b5 14.Nf3 Nd7 15.Bd2 Nb6 16.h4 f6 17.g4 c4 18.f5 Bc5 19.Kh1 Qe7 20.h5 Rae8 21.Nh4 Ne5 22.Qh2 Qd6 23.Bf4 1-0 (39) Laux,D (2248)-Skrbec,L (2123) Wch U16 Mamaia 2022 (5)]
[8...Nbd7 9.d3 Bd6 10.g3 h5 11.h4 Ng4 12.Qg2 e5 13.Qh3 Ndf6 14.Nd2 Bc7 15.Nf3 Qd7 16.Nh2 Nxh2 17.Kxh2 Ng4+ 18.Kg1 g6 19.f3 Nh6 20.Qxd7+ Kxd7 21.g4 f6 22.gxh5 gxh5 23.Kh2 1-0 (69) Charpentier,R (2459)-10.c3 0-0 11.♘bd2 ♗g4 (2313) TCh-AUT 2016-17 (6) Nf7 24.Rg1 Rhg8 25.Bd2 Nh8 26.Rg3 Rxg3 27.Kxg3 Rg8+ 28.Kf2 Ke7 29.f4 exf4 30.Bxh5 Rg7 31.Rh1 Rh7 32.Bg4 Nf7 33.Bf5 Rh8 34.h5 Ng5 35.h6 Kf7 36.b4 Bd6 37.a4 Bf8 38.Bxf4 0-1 (69) Blokh,M (2620)-Gottardi,G (2305) corr Konstantinopolskij mem 1993]
9.c3 c5 10.cxd4 cxd4
[10...Nc6 keeps more tension. 11.dxc5 Nd4 12.Bb5+ Nd7]
11.Na3 0-0 12.Nc4 e5 is the strong threat. **12...Bc7 13.d3 Nc6 14.a4 a6 15.g3** -0.31/18
[15.Bg5= 0.18/20]
15...b5 16.Na3 Rb8 -0.03/19
[16...Nd7∓ -0.46/17]
17.axb5 axb5 18.Bg5 Bd6 19.Rfc1 Ne5 20.Qg2 Ned7 21.Nc2 Qb6 22.b4 e5 23.h4 Ra8 24.Qf1 Rfc8 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Ra1 Qc6 27.Rxa8+ Qxa8 28.Qc1 Qb7 29.Bd1 Ne8 30.Bd2 Nb8 31.Ne1 Nc6 32.Bb3 Nxb4
[32...Bxb4? 33.Bxb4 Nxb4 34.Qc5+-]
33.Bxb4 Bxb4 34.Nf3 Qe7 0.98/24
[34...Bd6 35.Ng5 Qd7 36.Nxf7+- *(36.Bxf7+ Kf8+-)*]
[Better is 34...Qc7!± 0.42/23 35.Qa1 *(35.Qxc7 Nxc7 36.Nxe5 Ne6±)*

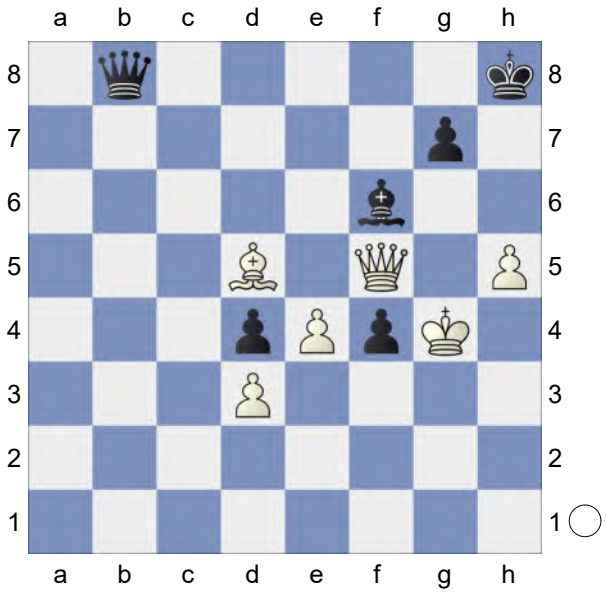
35...h6]
35.Qc6± Black is weak on the light squares **35...h6 36.Qxb5** White is much more active. **36...Bd6 37.h5 Nf6! 38.Nh4 Qd7** 1.14/24 Repels Nf5
[38...Qc7!± 0.68/25]
39.Qa6! Kh7 40.Qa2 Kg8 41.Qa8+ Qe8 42.Qa6 Bf8 43.Qb6 Nh7? 2.89/23
[43...Qd7± 1.08/22 was called for.]
44.Qg6 1.16/24
[44.Ng6+- 2.89/23 is more deadly.]
44...Ng5 ...Qb5 would now be deadly.
45.Qf5 Qb8 46.Bc4 Bd6 47.Kg2 Kf8? 3.27/28
[47...Qe8± 1.52/24 48.Qg6 Bf8]
48.Ng6+ 1.50/5
[48.Nf3+- 3.27/28 Kg8 49.Nxg5 hxg5 50.Bxf7+ *(50.Qxf7+ Kh8+-)* 50...Kh8 51.h6 *(51.Qxg5 Qf8+-)*]
48...Kg8 49.Qd7 Bf8 2.12/25
[49...Ba3± 1.46/26 might work better. 50.Nh4 Bd6]



50.Nh4!+- Bd6 51.Nf5 Bf8 52.Nh4? 0.01/24
[52.Bd5+- 2.06/24]
52...Bd6!= 53.Nf3 Qf8 54.Nxg5 hxg5
(Diagram)



55.Bxf7+!+- Endgame. Deflection. KQB-KQB **55...Kh8 56.Bb3 Be7 57.Qe6 Bf6 58.Bc4 Kh7 59.Qf5+ Kh8 60.Qg6 Be7 61.Bf7 Bb4 62.Qf5 Bd6 63.Kh3 Be7 64.Kg4 Bf6 65.Be6 Qe7 66.f4 gxf4 67.gxf4 Qd6 68.Bc4** Black must now prevent fxe5. **68...Qb8 69.Bd5 exf4**

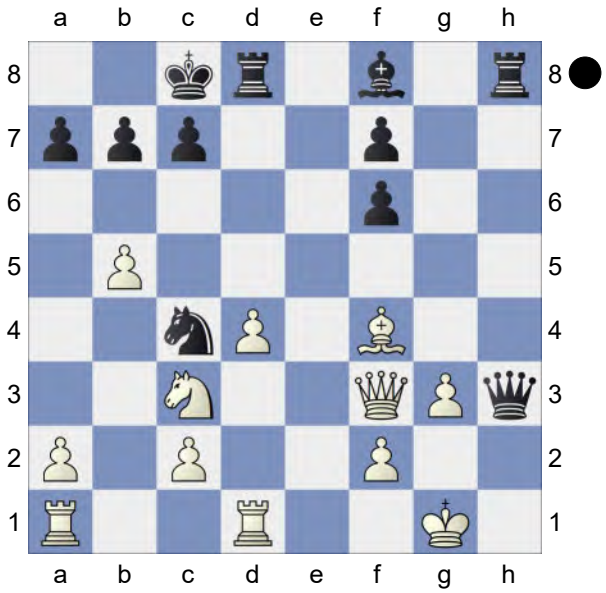


70.e5 0.32/29
[70.Qe6!± 1.45/23 f3 71.Kxf3]
70...Bxe5± 71.Be4 Kg8 72.Qe6+ White has compensation. **72...Kh8 73.Qg6**

[73.h6!? Bf6□ 74.Kf3±]
73...Qc8+ 74.Bf5
[But not 74.Qf5 Qxf5+ 75.Kxf5 Bd6∓]
74...Qg8 Repels Qh7+ **75.Kf3 Bf6 76.Be4 Be5?** 6.15/24
[76...Bd8± 0.44/28]
77.h6+- Bb8 78.Qg5 Intending hxg7+ and mate. **78...Qf8 79.hxg7+ Qxg7 80.Qh4+**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)
1-0

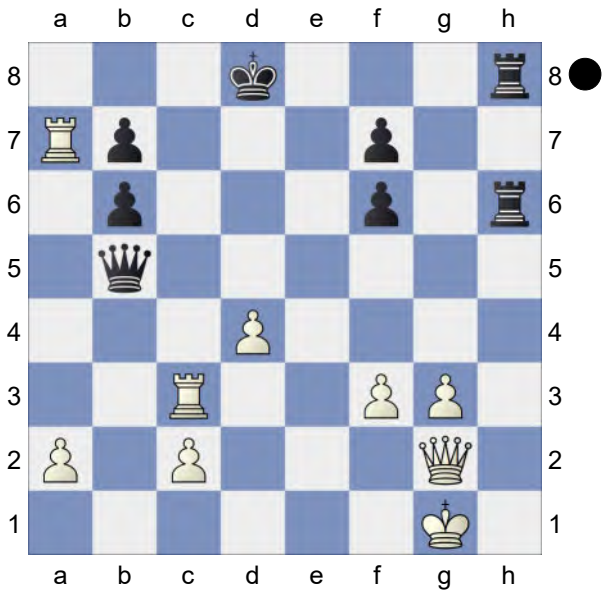
C42
□ **Gukesh,D.** **2777**
■ **Erigaisi,Arjun** **2801**
87th Tata Steel Masters (13.5) 02.02.25
[Kitty Kat]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nc4 Nxe4 5.Qe2 Qe7 6.Ne3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Be6! 8.g3 Nc6
[8...d5 9.Bg2 c6 10.d4 g6 11.0-0 Bg7 12.f4 Na6 13.a3 Nc7 14.Bd2 0-0-0 15.Rae1 Rde8 16.Qd3 Qd8 17.f5 Bd7 18.Na4 Ne4 19.Bb4 Nb5 20.c3 Bh6 21.fxg6 fxg6 22.c4 Bxe3+ 23.Rxe3 1-0 (73) Kumari,P (2664)-Zaltz,D (2549) Uxbridge 108/ (288) 2009 (2.1)]
9.Bg2 Against d5. The position is equal.
9...Qd7! 10.0-0N
[10.b4 d5 11.b5 Nd4 12.Qd3 c5 13.0-0 0-0-0 14.Re1 h5 15.h4 g5 16.b6 a6 17.hxg5 Ng4 18.Ncxd5 h4 19.Nc7 h3 20.Bxb7+ Kxb7 21.Qxa6+ Kc6 22.Nxg4 Bxg4 23.b7+ Kxc7 24.Qa5+ Kb8 0-1 (32) Rapport,R (2702)-Wei,Y (2706) 131/109 Wijk aan Zee 2017 *(24...Kd6 25.Qb6+ Kd5 26.Re3 h2+ 27.Kh1 Qc6 28.Rb1 Qxb6 29.Rxb6 Bd6 30.Bb2 Rde8* 0-1 (32) Salman,F (2702)-Chapter,W (2706) Cesko (ch) 70/512 1997 *)*]
10...0-0-0 11.b4 d5 Threatens to win with ...d4! **12.b5 Na5** White must now prevent ...d4. **13.d4 Bh3 14.Bxh3!**
[14.Nexd5? Bxg2 15.Kxg2 Nxd5-+]
14...Qxh3 15.Qf3 h5 16.Nexd5 -0.35/23
[16.Ncxd5= 0.01/23 Ng4 17.Qh1 *(17.Qxf7? Qxh2#)* 17...Nxe3 18.Nxe3 *(18.Bxe3 h4∓)* 18...Rxd4 19.Bb2]
16...h4∓ 17.Nxf6 gxf6 18.Rd1 -0.71/22
[18.Qg2!= -0.15/21 remains equal. Qf5 *(18...Qxg2+ 19.Kxg2 Rxd4 20.Be3=)* 19.Bf4]
18...hxg3∓ 19.hxg3 Nc4→ Black has some attack. **20.Bf4** -1.76/22
[20.Rb1!∓ -0.63/20]



20...Bh6!-+ 21.Bxh6 Rxh6 22.Qg2 -2.50/21
[22.Rab1∓ -1.49/23 is a better defense.]
22...Qh5 23.Rab1 Rdh8 24.Rb4 Na3

25.b6 cxb6 aiming for ...Qf5!
[25...axb6 26.Ra4 Nxc2 27.Ra8+ Kd7 28.Rxh8 Rxh8 29.Qd5+ Qxd5 30.Nxd5∓]
26.Ra4 Nb5
[26...Nxc2 27.Rxa7 Qh1+ 28.Qxh1 Rxh1+ 29.Kg2 Ne1+ 30.Rxe1 R8h2+ 31.Kf3 Rxe1 32.Ra8+ Kd7 33.Rf8∓]
27.Rd3 -5.40/24
[27.g4 -3.74/23 was necessary. Qg5 *(27...Qh1+ 28.Qxh1 Rxh1+ 29.Kg2=)* 28.Ne2 *(28.Nxb5* is a self mate. *Rh1+* Skewer, Deflection *29.Qxh1 Qxg4+ 30.Qg2 Qxd1+ 31.Qf1 Rg8+* Deflection *32.Kh2 Qxf1)*]
27...Nxc3 28.Rxc3+ Kd8 29.f3 Qb5 30.Rxa7

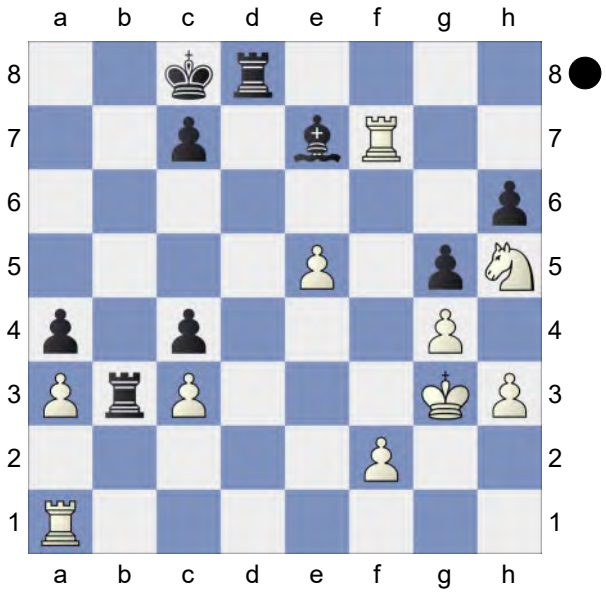


Rh1+! 31.Kf2
[31.Qxh1 Qb1+]
31...R8h2 Pin.
Weighted Error Value: White=1.12/ Black=0.03 (flawless)
0-1

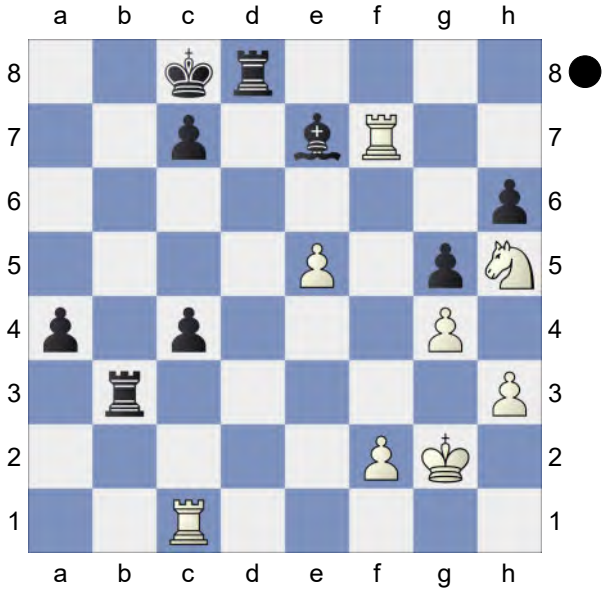
C67
□ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2680**
87th Tata Steel Masters (13.6) 02.02.25
[Kitty Kat]

C67: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence: 4 0-0 Nxe4
Inf 103/(214) **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nc3 Ne7 10.h3 Bd7**
[10...h6 11.Ne4 Ng6 12.b3 a5 13.a4 Bb4 14.Bb2 Nf4 15.Rad1+ Ke8 16.Nd4 Be6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Kh2 Rd8 19.Rxd8+ Kxd8 20.g3 Nd5 21.c4 Nb6 22.f4 Nd7 23.Bd4 Ke7 24.g4 h5 25.Kg2 Dominguez Perez,L (2739)-Le,Q (2728) Chess.com INT 2023 0-1 (40)]
11.Ne4 h6N
[11...Ng6 12.Nfg5 Ke8 13.f4 Nh4 14.Bd2 h6 15.Nf3 ½-½ (15) Yakovich,Y (2172)-Mohr,C (2284) Hamburgo 2010 CYB 12 [FS 1979/6; Sh Riga] Nxf3+ 16.Rxf3 Bf5 17.Re1 Rd8 18.Bc3 h5 19.Rg3 Guseinov,G (2625)-Aleksandrov,A (2582) Baku (open) 103/(214) 2008 CI1-130 [RR]]
12.Re1 0.12/21 &Bianco is more active.
[White should try 12.Nc5± 0.69/19 Bc8 13.Nd3]
12...b6= 13.Bd2 -0.01/19
[13.b3± 0.34/18]
13...Kc8 14.Rad1 a5 15.Ng3 c5 16.Nh5 Nd5 17.a3 Inhibits Nb4.
17...Be6 18.g4 -0.50/20
[18.c4= -0.09/20 Ne7 19.Re4]
18...b5 19.Kg2 Ra6 20.Kg3 b4 21.Ra1 a4 22.c3 -0.59/23
[22.Red1= -0.12/18]
22...bxc3∓ 23.Bxc3 Nxc3
[23...g5 is more complex. 24.h4

gxh4+ 25.Nxh4 Rb6]
24.bxc3 Rb6
[24...g5 feels hotter. 25.Nd2 Rb6 26.f4 Rb2]
25.Nf4 Bb3! 26.Nd2 -0.74/23
[26.Ng2= -0.28/20]
26...g5∓ 27.Nh5 Be7 28.Re3 Rd8 29.Nxb3 Rxb3 30.Rf3 c4 31.Rxf7

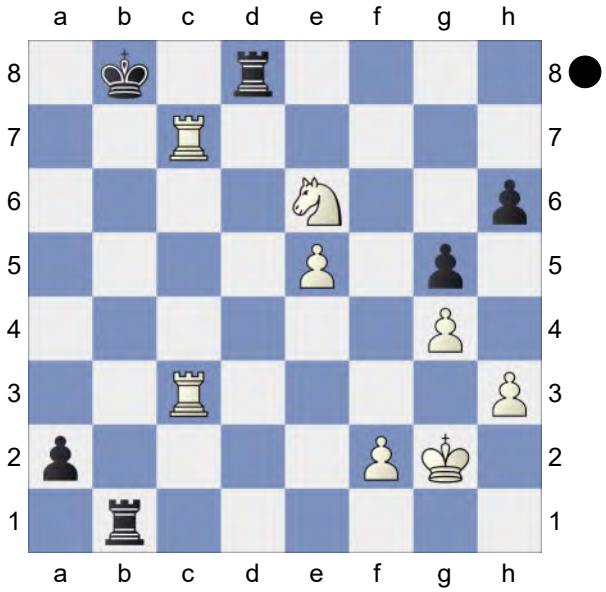


Rxa3! 32.Rb1 Rxc3+ 33.Kg2 Rb3 -0.27/21 **34.Rc1=**



a3! 35.Rxe7 c3 Strongly threatening ... a2.
[35...a2!? 36.Ra1 Rd2=]

36.Ng7! a2! 37.Ne6 Rb1 Against Ra1
38.Rxc7+
[Don't go for 38.Rxc3? a1Q 39.Rexc7+ *(39.Rcxc7+? Kb8-+)* 39...Kb8 40.Nxd8 Rg1+ 41.Kf3 *(41.Kh2? Rh1+ 42.Kg3 Qg1+ 43.Kf3 Rxh3+ 44.Ke4 Qe1+ 45.Kf5 Rxc3-+)* 41...Qd1+ 42.Ke4 Qxd8-+]
38...Kb8 39.R7xc3
[Don't blunder 39.R1xc3?



a1Q! 40.Nxd8 Rg1+ 41.Kf3 *(41.Kh2? Rh1+ 42.Kg3 Qg1+ 43.Kf3 Rxh3+ 44.Ke4 Qe1+ 45.Kf5 Rxc3-+)* 41...Qd1+ 42.Ke4 Qxd8-+]
39...a1Q 40.Rb3+ -0.33/26 **Rxb3∓ 41.Rxa1** Endgame KRR-KRN **41...Rd5** -0.01/23
[41...Rd2!∓ -0.40/24 should be considered.]
42.Nf8 Rd8 43.Ne6 Rd5 Black has compensation. **44.Rc1 Rb6**
[44...Rxe5? 45.Nd4+-]
45.Nf8 Rd8 46.Nh7 Re6 47.Re1 Rd4 48.Nf6 Kc8 49.Re3 Kd8 50.Kg3 Ke7 51.Nh5 Rd5 52.f4 Kf7 53.Rf3 aiming for fxg5+. **53...gxf4+** 0.48/25
[53...Ke7= 0.09/24]
54.Nxf4± Rdxe5 55.Nxe6+ Kxe6=

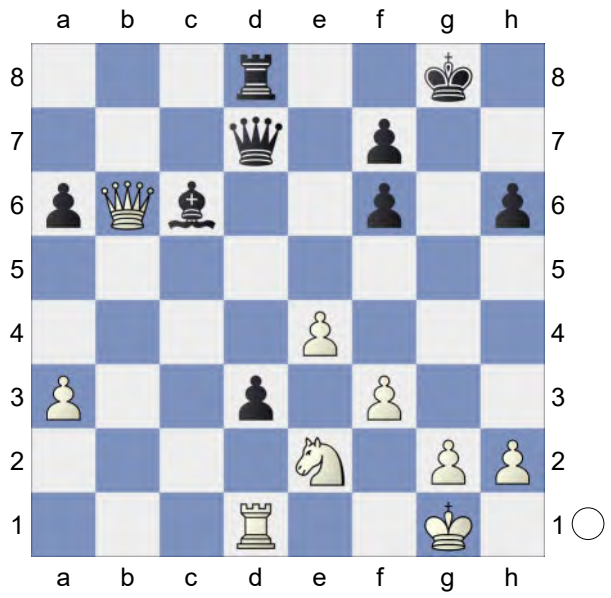
KR-KR **56.Kh4** Hoping for Rf8. **56...Ke7** Inhibits Rf8. **57.Rf5 Re3 58.Rh5 Re6 59.Rf5** -0.01/26
[59.Kg3± 0.49/30]
59...Re3 60.Rh5 Re6!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

E49
□ **Sarana,Alexey** **2677**
■ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**
87th Tata Steel Masters (13.7) 02.02.25
[Kitty Kat]

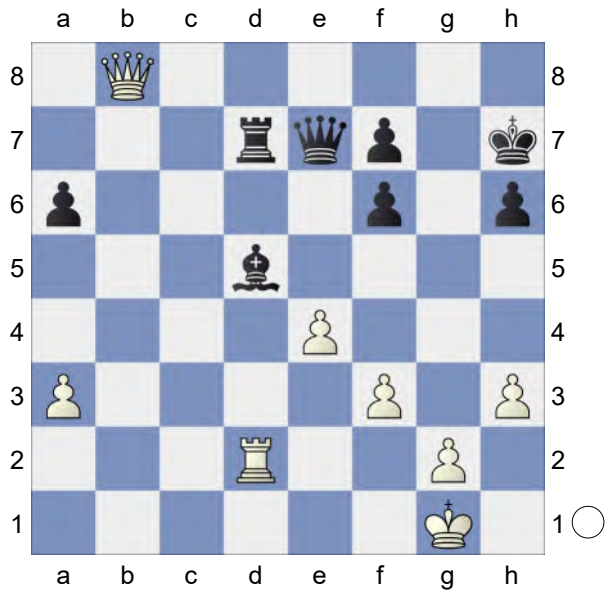
E49: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: 5 Bd3 d5 6 a3 Bxc3+ 7 bxc3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 c5 9.Ne2 Qc7 10.Qc2N
[10.Ba2 b6 11.0-0 Ba6
A) 12.Bb2 Nc6 13.Rc1 Rfd8 14.c4 Nimzo 4 e3 0-0 5 Bd3 d5-6 a3 Bxc3+ 7 bxc3 dxc4 ChessPub Guide 2024 Nimzo & Benoni [John Emms] cxd4 15.exd4 *(15.Nxd4 e5 16.Nb5 Bxb5 17.cxb5 Rxd1 18.Rfxd1 Ne4 19.bxc6 Nc5 20.Bd5 Rd8 21.Bc3 h6 22.Bb4 Na6 23.Bf3 f5 24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 25.Rd1 Qc8 26.Bd5+ Kh7 27.Bd6 e4 28.Be5 Qe8 29.Bf4 Qc8* Kayser,P (2296)-Grabowski,B (1934) ICCF 2016 Kommentierte Partien2024 [Buric,Slavko] 1-0 (45) *)* 15...Na5 16.d5 Bxc4 17.Bxc4 Nxc4 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Ng3 exd5 20.Qg4+ Kh8 21.Rfe1 Rg8 22.Qd4 Qd8 23.Nf5 Ne5 24.Kh1 Rc8 25.Rxc8 Qxc8 26.Ne7 Qg4 27.Qxd5 Re8 28.Nc6 Qf4 29.f3 Skalusevic,L (2664)-Ronneland,D (2618) Buenos Aires 2021 200 Traps In The Opening [Harding/Busemann] ½-½ (44);
B) 12.Re1 Nc6 13.Ng3 Rfd8 *(13...Rad8 14.Bb2 e5 15.Qc2 Rd7 16.Rad1 Rfd8 17.h3 c4 18.a4 Re8 19.Ba3 e4 20.Bb1 Rd5 21.Ne2 Rg5 22.Nf4 Bc8 23.Qe2 Qd7 24.Qxc4 Na5 25.Qb4 Nd5 26.Nxd5 Qxd5 27.h4 Rg4 28.Qb5* Strick,E (2670)-Levano Loayza,A (2710) Srbija 141/169 2006 Telechess CBM 89 [BCCA Magazine 19 p20] 0-1 (39)*)* 14.Bb2 Na5 15.e4 Bc4 16.Bxc4 Nxc4 17.Bc1 Ne8 18.e5 cxd4 19.cxd4 Rd5 20.Qg4 Qd7 21.Re4 Ncd6 22.Rf4 Nf5 23.Nxf5 exf5 24.Qxf5 Qxf5 Chapter-Ba2]
10...b6 11.f3 Bb7 Threatening ...cxd4.
12.Bd2 Nc6 13.Rc1 Rac8 0.08/20
[13...Na5 -0.25/18 deserves consideration. 14.Ba2 Rfd8]
14.Qb2= e5 15.e4 exd4 16.cxd4 cxd4 17.Bb5 Qd7 0.51/23
[17...Rfd8= 0.10/23]
18.0-0± Rfd8 19.Bg5 a6 0.80/25
[19...Qe6± 0.35/21]
20.Bxc6± &Bianco is more active.
20...Rxc6 21.Rxc6 Bxc6 22.Rd1 d3 23.Qxb6 h6 1.52/26
[Better is 23...Ba4 0.81/23 24.Rd2 Bb5]
24.Bxf6 gxf6

(Diagram)

25.Nf4 0.48/25
[25.Ng3!± 1.59/25]
25...d2± 26.Nd5! Bxd5 27.Rxd2 Pin
27...Qe7 Strongly threatening ...Rd7!
28.h3 0.10/24
[Wrong is 28.Rxd5? Rxd5 29.Qb8+



Rd8 30.Qg3+ Kf8-+]
[28.g4± 0.55/25 is superior.]
28...Rd7!= And now ...Bc6! would win. The position is equal. **29.Qb8+ Kh7**



...Qc5+ is the strong threat. **30.Rxd5 Rxd5 31.exd5** Endgame With the idea Qb4. KQ-KQ **31...Qc5+ 32.Kh1 Qxd5 33.Qb6 Qe6 34.Qb4 Qd5 35.a4 a5 36.Qf4 Qe5 37.Qc4 Kg7 38.h4 Qe1+ 39.Kh2 Qb4 40.Qg4+ Qxg4 41.fxg4** aiming for Kg3. KP-KP **41...Kg6 42.Kg3** Black must now prevent Kf4. **42...f5 43.Kf4 fxg4 44.Kxg4** Hoping for h5+. **44...f5+ 45.Kf4 Kf6 46.g4 fxg4 47.Kxg4 Ke5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
½-½

A13
□ **Gukesh D** **2615**
■ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2717**
Masters | Playoff (1.1) 02.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

A13: English Opening: 1...e6
1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 d4 5.0-0 Nc6 6.d3 Bc5 7.a3N
[7.e3 0-0 8.exd4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Bxd4 10.Nc3 e5 11.Be3 Bg4 12.Qd2 c6 13.h3 Bf5 14.Rad1 Qd7 15.g4 Bg6 16.Bg5 Qd6 17.Ne2 Bb6 18.b4 Bc7 19.c5 Qe6 20.Rfe1 Nd5 21.Ng3 h6 Campos,J (2206)-Guo,Q (1412) Bydgoszcz 2023 0-1 (39)]
[7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Nb3 Be7 9.h3 *(9.e3 dxe3 10.Bxe3 Ng4 11.Bc5 Bxc5 12.Nxc5 b6 13.Ne4 Bb7 14.d4 Rb8 15.Re1 Nf6 16.Nc3 Ne7 17.Ne5 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 c6 19.Qd3 Qc7 20.Rad1 Rbd8 21.Qf3 Rd6 22.b4 Ng6 23.h4 Ne7* 4.♘f3 g6 5.♘bd2 (2727)-Glaser,G (2664) London 2022 OPN, D00 [Borovikov] ½-½ (72) *)*
9...e5 10.e3 a5 11.exd4 exd4 12.a4 Ra6 13.Re1 Bb4 14.Bd2 Rb6 15.Bxb4 Rxb4 16.Ra3 Qd6 17.Qd2 Nd7 18.Ng5 Rb6 19.Bd5 Ne7 20.Bg2 Nc6 21.Ne4 Qb4 Eljanov,P (2691)-Erigaisi,A (2727) Chennai 2023 [David Cummings] ½-½ (54)]
[7.Bg5 0-0 8.Nbd2 Be7 9.a3 a5 10.Qa4 Ra6 11.Qc2 h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Rab1 Be7 14.c5 a4 15.Rfc1 Ra5 16.b4 axb3 17.Nxb3 Rxa3

18.Nfd2 Ra8 19.Ra1 Rb8 20.Bxc6 bxc6 21.Nf3 Bf6 Donchenko,A (2664)-Keymer,V (2700) Chess.com INT 2023 0-1 (53)]

7...a5 Prevents b4. **8.Bg5 h6** The position is equal. **9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nbd2 Qe7 11.Ne4 a4 12.Nxc5 Qxc5 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Qc2 e5 15.Rfb1 Ra7 16.b4 axb3! 17.Rxb3 Qe7 18.Rb5** -0.34/21

[18.Bxc6= 0.12/22 bxc6 19.a4]

18...Rxa3∓ 19.Re1 Ra7 20.Qb2 Rd8 21.h4 -0.77/22

[21.Ra1∓ -0.31/20]

21...Nb8 22.e3 c6 23.Rb3 Qc7 24.Nf3 -1.07/22

[⌓24.exd4 -0.76/21 exd4 25.Ne4]

24...Na6 -0.01/25

[24...c5∓ -1.07/22 25.Nd2 Nc6 26.Bxc6 Qxc6]

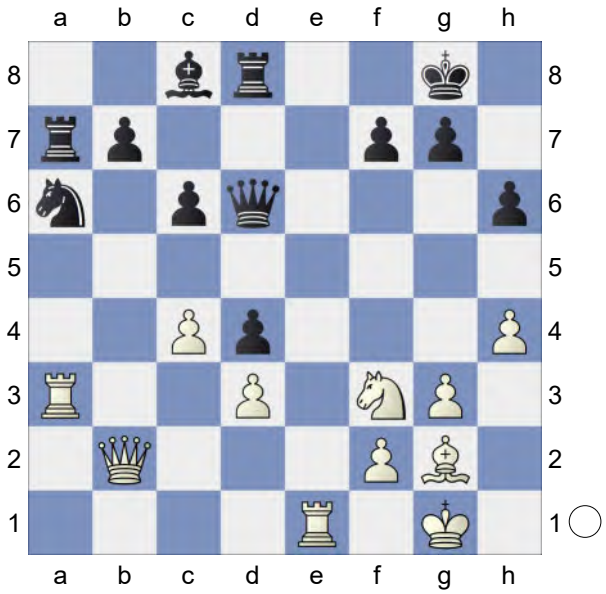
25.Ra3 -0.38/23

[25.exd4= -0.01/25 deserves consideration. exd4 26.Ra3]

25...Qd6 0.59/25

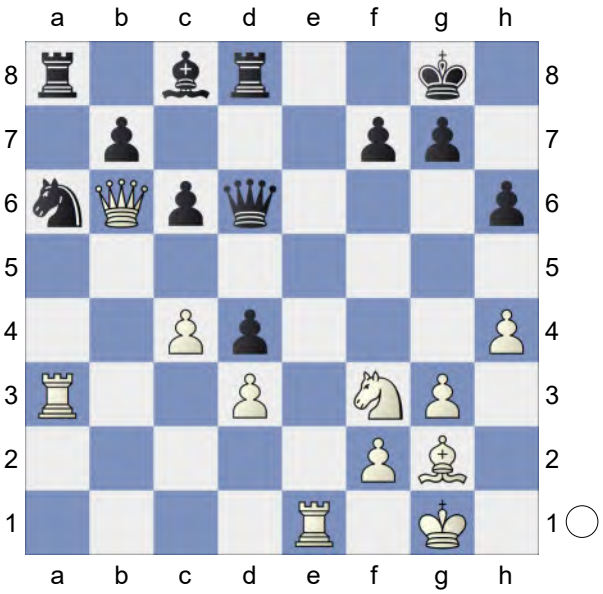
[Better is 25...dxe3∓ -0.38/23 26.Rxe3 f6]

26.exd4± exd4



27.Qb6! Black must now prevent c5.

27...Ra8

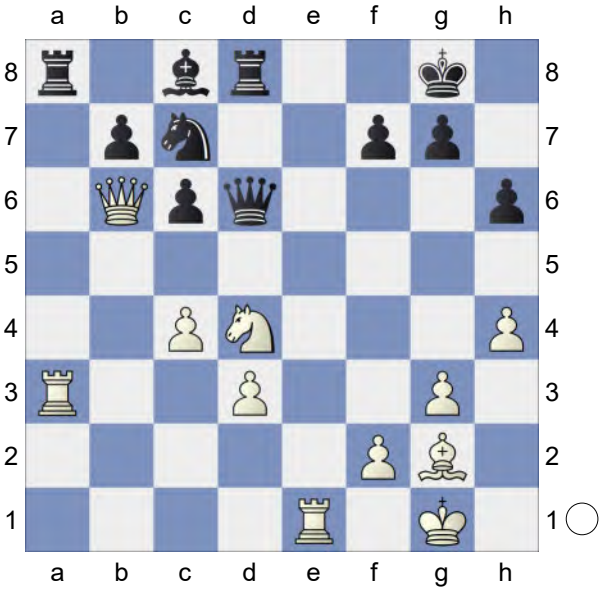


28.Nxd4! Nc7 1.06/27

[28...Qxd4? 29.Re8+!! Rxe8 30.Qxd4+-]

[Black should play 28...Rb8± 0.40/21]

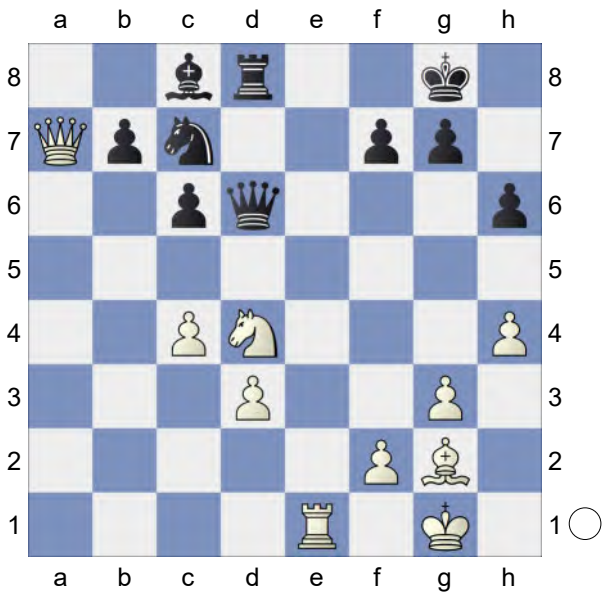
[28...Bd7 29.Nc2]



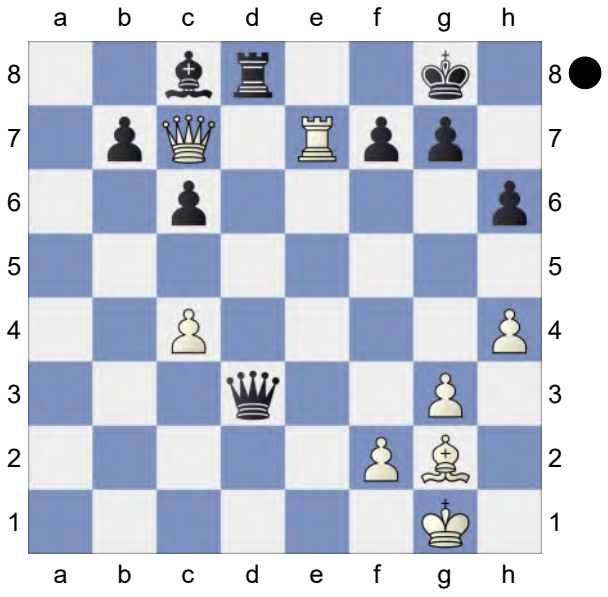
29.Rxa8 -0.01/22 &Bianco is much more active.

[29.Nb5!± 1.06/27 cxb5 30.Qxd6 Rxd6 31.Rxa8 Nxa8 32.Re8+ Kh7 33.c5 *(33.Rxc8 Nb6±)*]

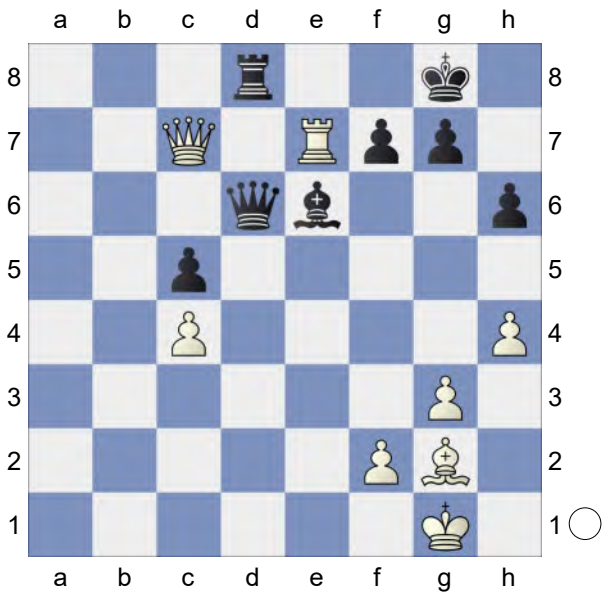
29...Nxa8= 30.Qa7 Nc7



31.Qa5! Qxd4
[31...Na6 32.Nf5]
32.Qxc7 Qxd3 0.81/24
[32...Be6= 0.05/22]
33.Re7? -0.78/24
[33.Bd5!± 0.81/24 Rf8 34.Bxf7+! Kh8 35.Qe7]



33...Be6 -0.14/24
[33...Rf8!∓ -0.78/24 34.Qf4 Qa3]
34.Qxb7 c5 35.Qc7 Qd6? 5.20/25
[35...Qd1+= -0.25/24 36.Kh2 Qd4]



A mistake that costs the game.
36.Re8+!+- White is clearly winning.
36...Kh7
[36...Rxe8 37.Qxd6]
37.Qxd8 Qe5 Against Be4+ **38.Rh8+ Kg6 39.Qd3+ Bf5 40.Qe3 Qd6 41.Re8 Be6** Prevents Bd5. **42.Be4+** Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.56
1-0

D03
□ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2717**
■ **Gukesh D** **2615**
Masters | Playoff (1.1) 02.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D03: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Bg5, including Torre Attack with early ...d5
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.e3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Nbd2 0-0 6.h3
[6.Rc1 b6 7.c4 Ba6 8.Be2 Ne4 9.Bh4 c5 10.0-0 Nc6 11.cxd5 Bxe2 12.Qxe2 Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Qxd5 14.dxc5 Njili,K (2460)-Juan Lepp,J (2520) Prague 1990 Telechess CBM 89 [NV]]

[6.c4 c6 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.a3 Bd7 10.0-0 Rc8 11.Qb3 e6 12.Ne5 h6 13.Bh4 g5 14.Bg3 b6 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.Nf3 Na5 17.Qa2 Nc4 18.b3 Na5 19.Rac1 Qe7 20.b4 Nb7 Kopylov,M (1523)-Parvanyan,A (1199) Asuncion 2023 CT-1677 [John Watson] 1-0]

6...c5N

[6...b6 7.Be2 Bb7 8.0-0 c5 9.c3 Nbd7 10.Re1 Re8 11.Bf4 Ne4 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Nd2 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Rxe5 16.Qb3 Qh4 17.f4 exf3 18.Bxf3 Rd8 19.Qc4 Qe7 20.Qe2 Bh6 21.Nf1 Preiswerk,W (2141)-Marciniak,G (2321) Katrineholm 2003 200 Traps In The Opening [lainMackintosh] ½-½ (49) Bxf3 22.Qxf3 Re8 23.Rad1 Bxe3+ 24.Nxe3 Rxe3 25.Rxe3 Qxe3+ 26.Qxe3 Rxe3 27.Kf2 Re7 28.a4 Kg7 29.a5 bxa5 30.Ra1 Rb7 31.Rxa5 Rxb2+ 32.Kf3 Kf6 33.Rxc5 Ra2 34.g4 a5 35.Ke4 a4 36.g5+ Panic,M (2141)-Bakhmatov,E (2321) Bad Wiessee 2003 [ChessCalisthenics] ½-½ (49)]

7.c3 b6 8.Bd3 The position is equal. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 h6 10.Bf4 Nd7 11.Bg3 Bb7 12.Be2 e5 13.dxe5 Ndxe5 14.a4 Nd7** 0.09/21

[14...Nxf3+∓ -0.45/20 15.Bxf3 Re8]

15.Qc2 -0.34/21

[15.e4= 0.09/21]

15...Re8 16.Rfe1 Rc8 17.Rad1 Qe7 0.23/21

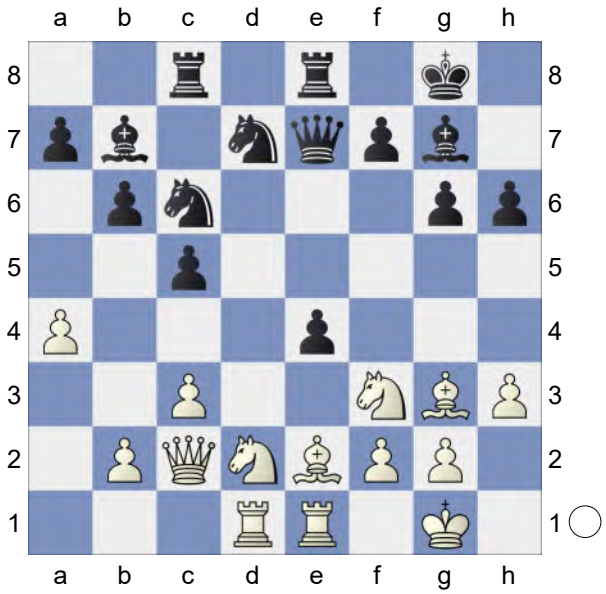
[⩲17...f5 -0.29/21]

18.Qb1 -0.32/19

[18.e4!= 0.23/21 dxe4

(Diagram)

19.Qxe4!]



18...Nf8 0.32/21

[18...Rcd8∓ -0.32/19]

19.Bf1± Ne6 20.e4! Inhibits f5. **20...d4 21.Qc2** 0.01/19

[21.e5± 0.38/21]

21...Ng5 22.Nh2 Rcd8 23.e5 Qc7 0.50/21

[Resist 23...Bxe5 24.f4±]

[Much less strong is 23...Nxe5 24.h4±]

[Black should play 23...Na5!= -0.06/20]

24.Ng4 -0.22/22

[24.h4± 0.50/21 Ne6 25.Ng4]

24...Kh8 1.11/21

[Of course not 24...Nxe5?! 25.Bb5 Re6 26.Bxe5 Bxe5 27.Bc4∓]

[24...dxc3= -0.22/22 remains equal. 25.Qxc3 Nd4]

25.Nc4± Ne6 26.Nd6 Rf8 27.Bc4 And now Bxe6 would win. **27...Ne7 28.Qc1** 1.11/22

[28.Bxe6+- 1.86/20 fxe6 29.cxd4]

28...Qc6 1.46/21

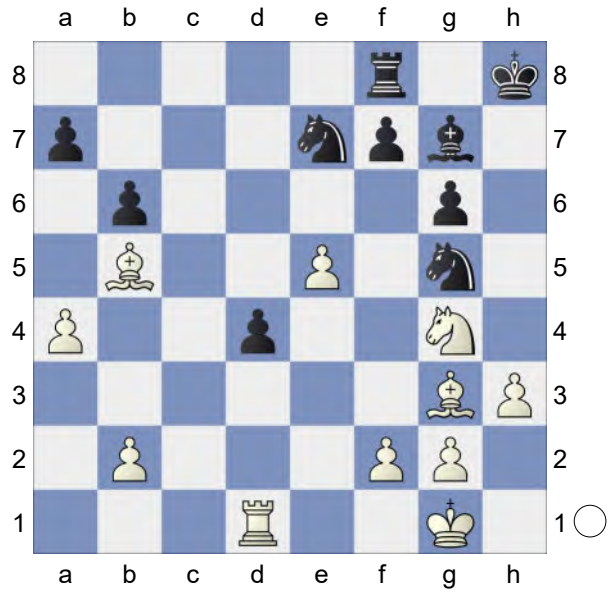
[Black should try 28...Nf5 1.11/22]

29.Nxb7 Active counter play! **29...Qxb7 30.Nxh6 Nd5** 2.30/22

[30...Qc6± 1.55/22 31.Bh4 g5]

31.Ng4+- Qe7 32.Rd3 Qg5 3.27/23

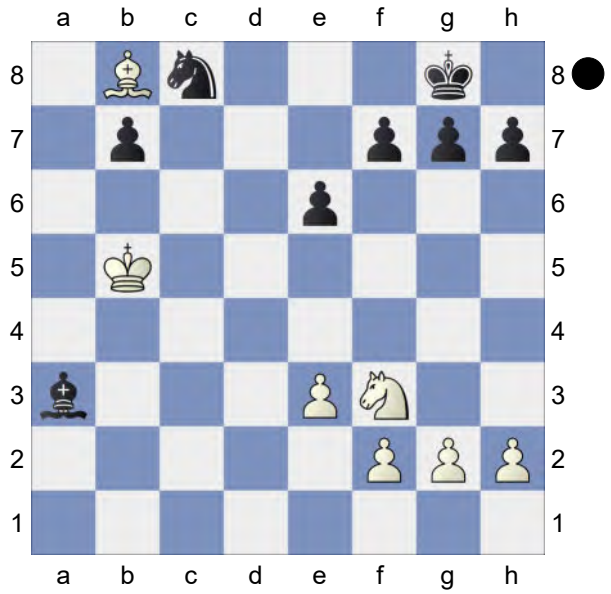
[⌓32...Kh7 2.22/20 33.f4 Qd7]
33.Qxg5 Nxg5 34.cxd4 Nb4 35.Rd2 Rxd4 36.Rxd4 cxd4 37.Rd1 Nc6 38.Bb5 Ne7 4.90/24
[38...Nb8 2.87/23 might work better. 39.Rxd4 Rc8]



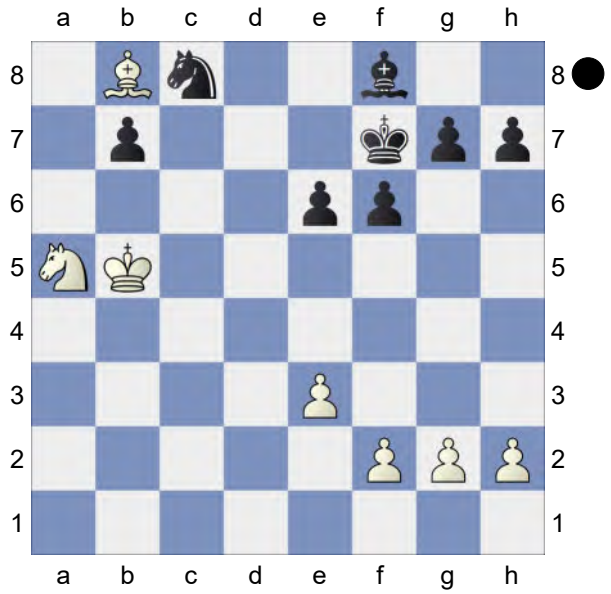
39.Bh4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.36
1-0

D02
□ **Praggnanandhaa R** **2717**
■ **Gukesh D** **2615**
Masters | Playoff (1.1) 02.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4N
[3.g3 c5 *(3...g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 c5 7.Bb2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Re8 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Nxc6 bxc6* 28) 1.d4 d5 - Remaining Nonse-3.g3 & 6.b3*)* 4.Bg2 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Nb3 Be6 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Nc3 d4 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Ne4 Qb6 12.c3 f5 13.Ned2 0-0 14.cxd4 Nxd4 15.e3 Nxb3 16.Nxb3 Bc4 17.Qf3 Bxf1 □-□ (118) 10. ♗e2 ♗e6 11.0-0 (2426)-Bisguer,A (2278) Wichern op 5th 1999 (6.2)]
[3.e3 c5 4.c4 cxd4 5.exd4 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Bf4 Nc6 11.Be2 b6 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Rfe1 Rc8 14.Qb2 Na5 15.Nd2 Qd5 16.Bf1 Qf5 17.Bg3 e6 ½-½ (28) Kluegel,J (2500)-Nickel,A (2630) 30/A (SUI) ICCF 2015]
[3.c4 c6 4.e3 e6 5.b3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.Bb2 b6 8.0-0 Bb7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Qe2 Re8 11.Rfd1 Rc8 12.Rac1 Qe7 13.cxd5 Nxd5 14.Ne4 Bb8 15.Ne5 Nf8 16.Qh5 f6 17.Nc4 Nb4 0-1 (53) Laxman,R (2378)-Swayham, P (1902) Bikaner op 1st 2022 (1)]
3...e6 4.e3 c5 5.Be2 Bd6 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 White has an edge. **8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 a6 10.Qxd8 Rxd8 11.Nbd2 Bd7 12.Rac1 Be7 13.Be2 Nd5 14.Bg3 Bb5 15.Bxb5 axb5 16.a3 Nc6 17.Rfd1 Rac8 18.Kf1 Nb6** -0.04/21
[18...f6∓ -0.59/20]
19.Ne4 Nc4 20.Rxd8+ Rxd8 1.09/22
[20...Nxd8= -0.01/22 21.Ke1 Nc6]
21.Rc2? -0.49/22
[White has to play 21.a4!± 1.09/22]
21...Rd1+!∓ 22.Ke2 Rb1 23.Nc3 -0.96/24
[23.Nd4∓ -0.50/24 was preferrable.]
23...Rxb2∓ 24.Rxb2 Remove Defender **24...Nxb2 25.Nxb5 Nc4** Dodges Bd6 **26.Kd3 Nxa3 27.Nxa3 Bxa3** Endgame. KBN-KBN **28.Kc4 Na7 29.Bb8 Nc8 30.Kb5** -1.80/25
[30.Nd2∓ -0.88/23]



30...f6 -0.80/24
[30...Bd6!-+ -1.80/25 has better winning chances. 31.Bxd6 Nxd6+ 32.Kb6 Kf8]
31.Nd2 Kf7 32.Nc4 Bf8 -0.51/22
[Black should play 32...Be7∓ -0.96/25]
33.Na5 -0.89/25
[33.Bg3!∓ -0.51/22 might be stronger.]



33...Bd6! 34.Bxd6 Nxd6+ KN-KN **35.Kb6 Ne4 36.f3 Nc3** -0.01/26
[Better is 36...Nd2∓ -0.90/24 And now ...Nf1 would win. 37.Kxb7 Nf1]
37.Kxb7= e5 38.Kc6 Nd1 39.Nc4 Ke6 40.e4 g6 41.Kc5 f5 42.Kb4 fxe4 43.fxe4 Nf2 44.Nd2 Kd6 45.Nc4+ Ke6 46.Nd2 Kf6 47.Kc4 Ng4 48.Nf1 Nf2 49.Kd5 Nd3 50.Ne3 Nf4+ 1.44/28
[50...Nf2= 0.01/26 remains equal.]
51.Kd6± Black must now prevent Nd5+.
51...Nd3 52.Ng4+ Deflection **52...Kg5?** 4.21/25
[52...Kg7 2.04/25 53.Nxe5 Nf2]
53.Nxe5+- Kf4? 16.85/29
[53...Nf2 3.44/24 54.Nf3+ Kf4]
54.Nxd3+ Kxe4 KN-KPP **55.Nf2+ Ke3 56.Ng4+ Kf4 57.Nf6 h5 58.Ke6** White wants to mate with g3+. **58...h4 59.Kf7 Kf5 60.Kg7** 19.44/29
[⌓60.g4+ #19/27 hxg3 61.hxg3 g5 62.g4+ Kf4 63.Kg6 Ke5 64.Nh5 *(64.Kxg5 Ke6 65.Nh5 Ke5 66.Kh6 Kd6 67.g5 Ke5 68.g6 Ke6)* 64...Ke6 65.Kxg5]
60...g5 61.h3 Kf4 62.Kg6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.40
1-0

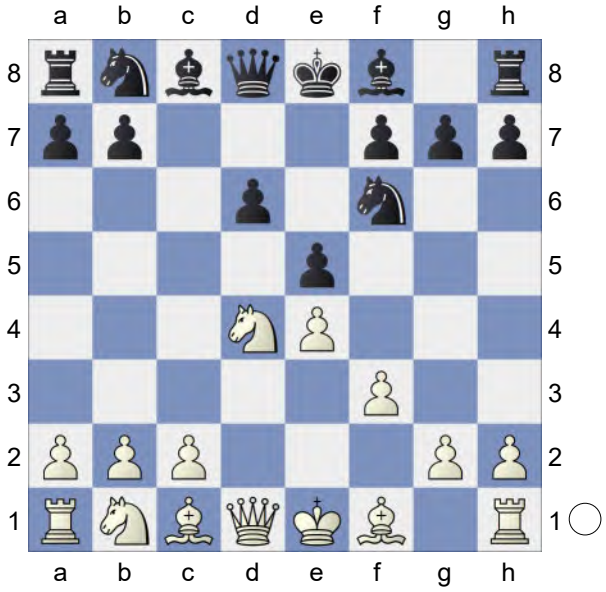
Chess Notes 2025

TATA STEEL 2025 (CHALLENGERS)

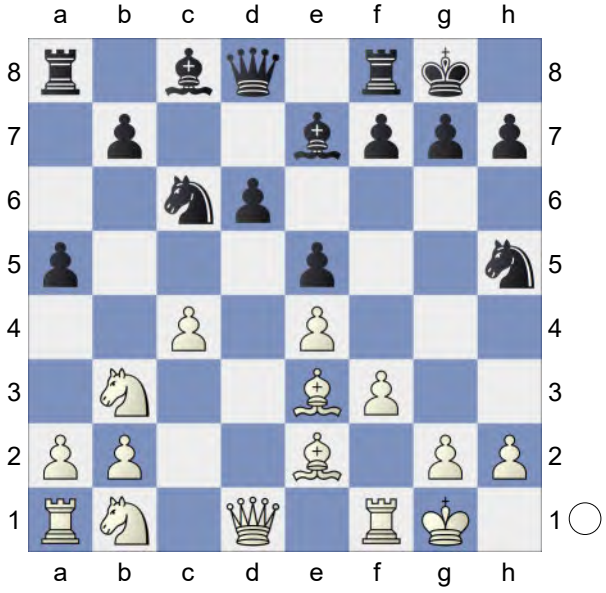
GM Thai Dai Van Nguyen Wins!

1 **B54**
□ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
■ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
Tata Steel Challengers (1.1) 18.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B55: Sicilian: 2...d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5N**
[5...a6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 b6
A) 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2
A1) 11...Qc7 12.Rfd1 *(12.Rac1 Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Bf1 Qb8 15.Nc2 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qd6 Bc7 20.Qa3 Rcd8 21.b4 Bd6 22.Qb2 Nd7 23.Rd2 Qc7 24.Rcd1 Be7 25.Qb3 h5 26.Na4 h4* Chumichev,G (2416)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7_107 (2599) Moscow 2012 CBM 017 [Ham/Harding] 0-1 (46) *)* 12...Re8 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.a3 Rac8 15.b4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Bd8 17.Bg1 h5 18.Nc2 Bc7 19.Ne3 Ne5 20.Na4 h4 21.c5 dxc5 22.bxc5 b5 23.Nb6 Rcd8 24.Qe1 h3 25.a4 hxg2+ 26.Nxg2 Ayyala,S (2018)-7.00 Na6 8. Re1 c6 (2361) Maia 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 0-1 (53);
A2) 11...Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8 13.a5 Ne5 14.axb6 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nb3 Rb4 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Na4 Rb5 19.Nc3 Rb4 20.Na4 Rb5 21.Nc3 ½-½ (21) Ellithorpe,G (2680)-13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3 (2655) Rehovot 83/244 1997 1 e4 e5 [John Watson];
B) 8.Be3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 Ne5 12.a5 bxa5 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa5 Nc6 15.Qa2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 0-0 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Na4 Chapter-Games Game 2 (42)]

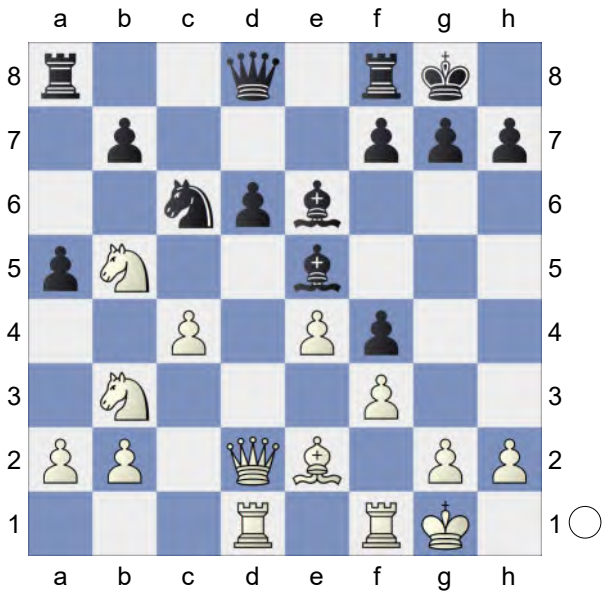


6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 a5 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 Nc6 10.0-0 The position is equal.
10...Nh5

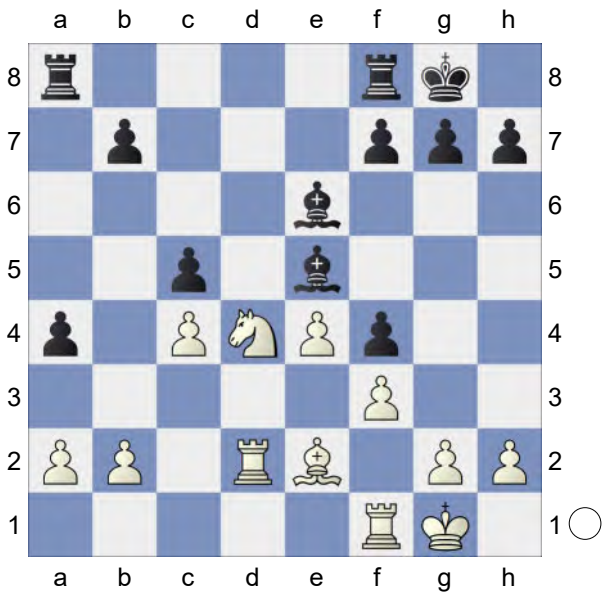


11.Qd2 Nf4 12.Bxf4 exf4 13.Nc3 Bf6 14.Rad1
[14.Qxf4? a4 15.Nd5 Bxb2-+]

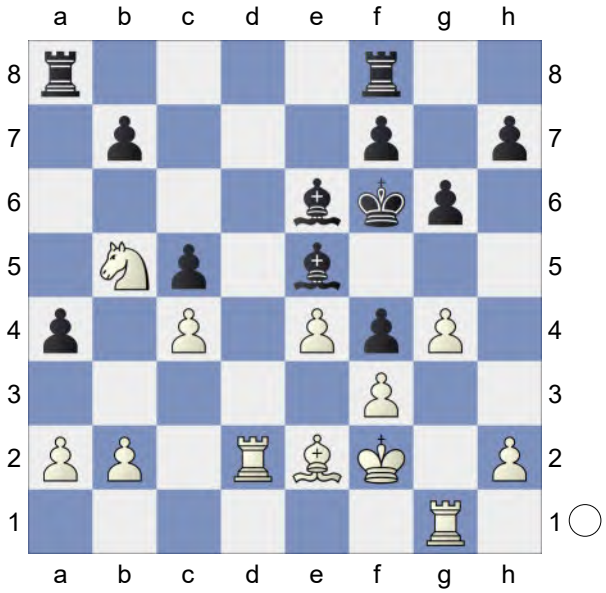
14...Be6 15.Nb5
[15.Qxf4? a4 16.Nc1 *(16.Rxd6? Qe7-+)* 16...Qb6+ 17.c5 dxc5-+]
[15.Qxd6 Qxd6 16.Rxd6 a4∓]
15...Be5



16.N3d4
[Wrong is 16.Nxd6? a4 17.Nc1 *(17.Nxb7? Qxd2 18.Nxd2 Rfb8-+)* 17...Bd4+ 18.Qxd4 Nxd4 19.Rxd4 Qb6-+]
16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 a4 18.Qb4 Qc7 19.Rd2 Qc5 20.Qxc5 dxc5

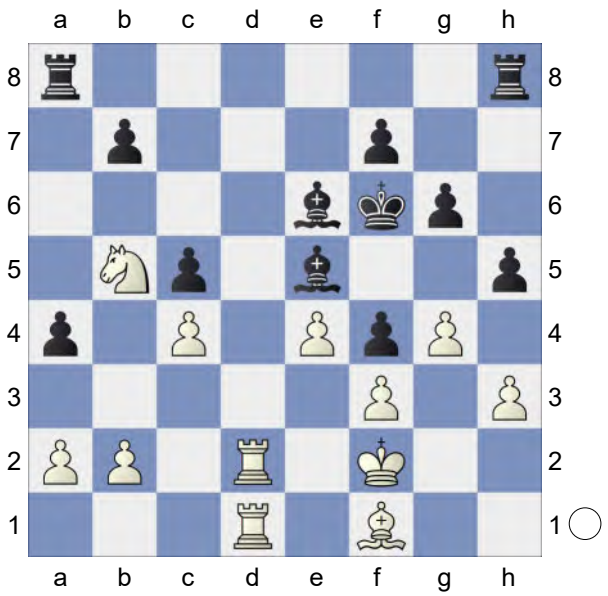


21.Nb5 -1.27/24
[⌓21.Nxe6 -0.75/21 fxe6 22.Kh1]
21...g6 22.Rfd1 Ra6 23.Kf2 Kg7 24.Rg1 Kf6 25.g4 Raa8

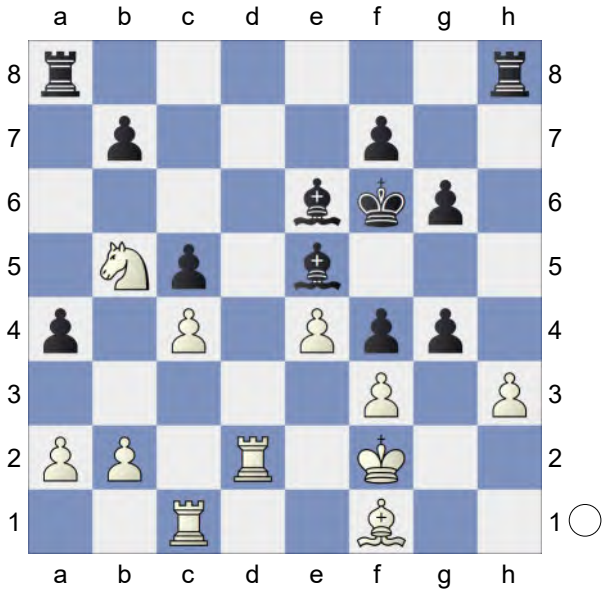


26.h3 -1.67/25
[26.h4∓ -1.11/24]
26...h5 -1.28/23
[26...Rfd8-+ -1.67/25 27.Rgd1 Rxd2 28.Rxd2 h5]
27.Rc1 -1.69/24
[27.Rgd1∓ -1.28/23]
27...Rh8-+ 28.Bf1 Rad8 29.Rcd1 Ra8 0.01/19
[29...Rxd2+-+ -1.63/22 30.Rxd2 hxg4 31.hxg4 Rh2+ 32.Ke1 Rxd2 33.Kxd2 Bxb2]

(Diagram)

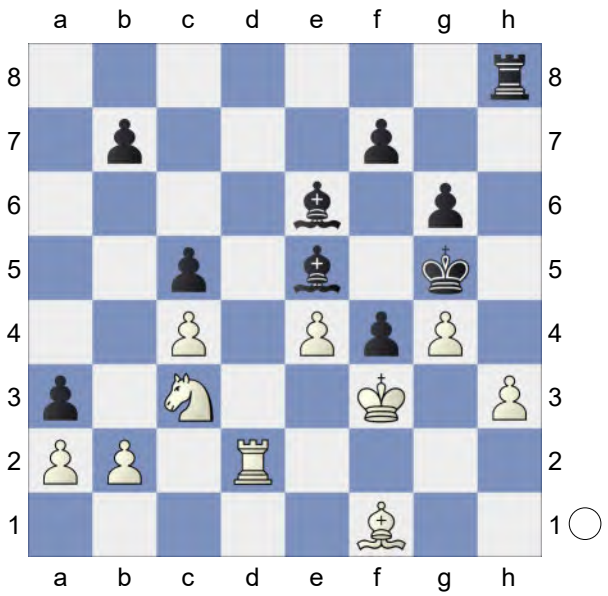


30.Rc1!= This costs White the game.
30...hxg4

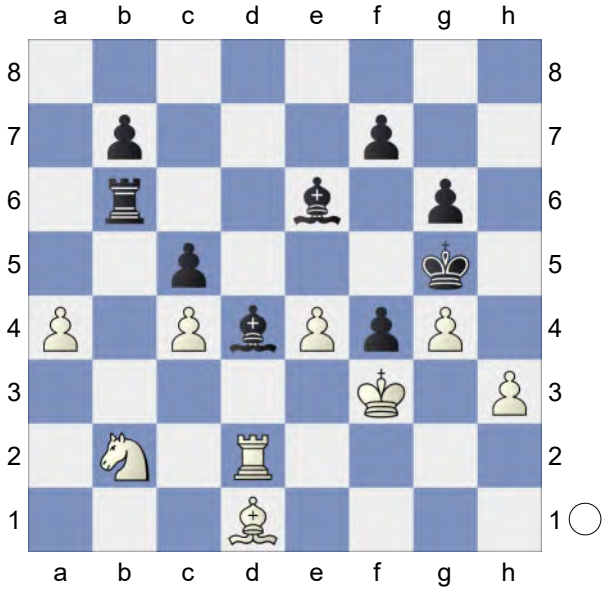


31.fxg4 Kg5 32.Rcc2 Rad8 33.Kf3 Rd7 34.Nc3 -3.06/26
[34.Rxd7∓ -1.60/22 was worth a try. Bxd7 35.Rd2]
34...Rxd2-+ 35.Rxd2 a3

(Diagram)

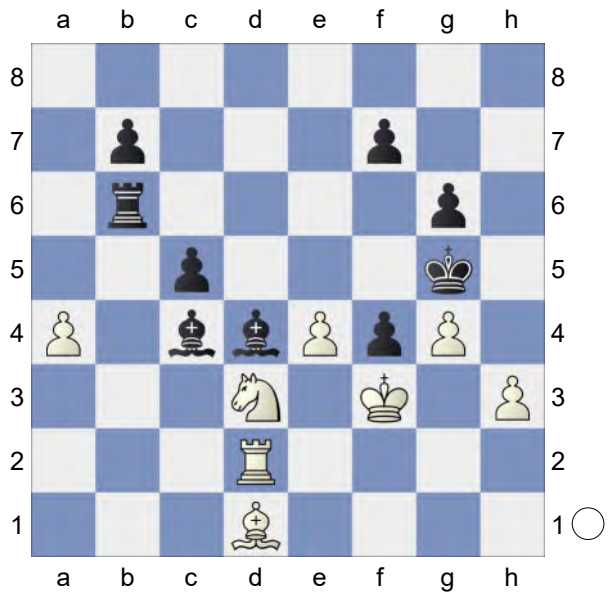


36.Nd1 axb2 37.Nxb2 Ra8 38.a4 Bd4 39.Be2 Ra6 And now ...Rb6 would win.
40.Bd1 -3.16/23
[⌓40.e5 -2.23/22]
40...Rb6

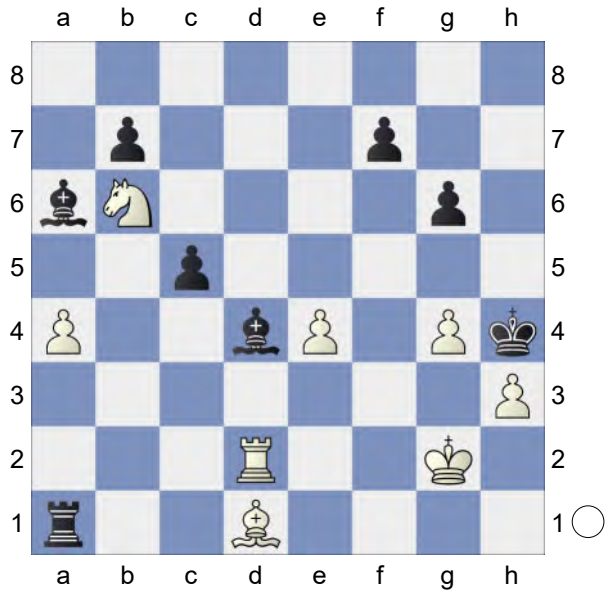


41.Nd3 Bxc4

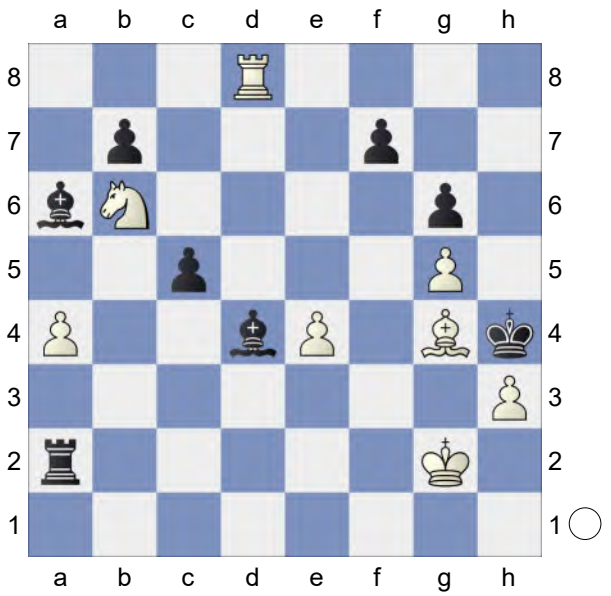
(Diagram)



...Be3 is the strong threat. **42.Nxf4 Kh4** Threatens to win with ...Rf6.
[Worse is 42...Rf6 43.Kg3 Rd6 44.Bc2∓]
43.Nd5 Inhibits Rf6+. **43...Rb1** Hoping for ...Bb3. **44.Kg2?** -4.51/26
[44.Ne3 -2.35/22 was the only chance. Bb3 45.Rd3 Bxd1+ 46.Nxd1]
44...Ra1 45.Nb6 Ba6



This bishop pair is nice. **46.g5** -8.89/23
[⌓46.Be2 -4.36/22 Bxe2 47.Rxe2]
46...Be3 47.Rd8 Bd4 48.Bg4 Ra2+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.19 (very precise)
0-1

2 **A49**
□ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
■ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
Tata Steel Challengers (1.2) 18.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

A49: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 g3: Anti-King's Indian systems Combinative liquidation in the opening **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 c5 5.dxc5N**

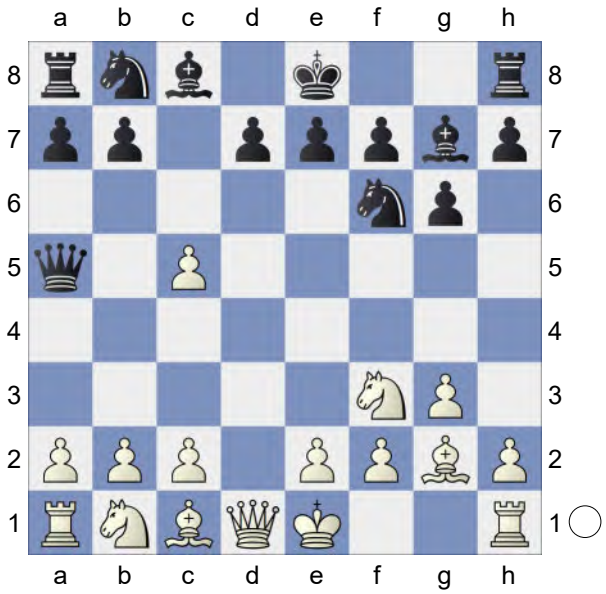
[5.d5 0-0 6.0-0 b5 *(6...d6 7.Nc3 Na6 8.e4 Nc7 9.a4 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 a6 12.Qe2 Nd7 13.a5 b5 14.axb6 Nxb6 15.Nd1 a5 16.h4 Qd7 17.c4 e6 18.Bh3 Qe7 19.Qc2 exd5 20.exd5 Rfe8 21.Ne3* Hansen,C (2475)-10.000 Be7 11. g4_5565 (2490) Game No. 5 1996 CBM 131 [Wade] 0-1 (43)*)* 7.Re1 d6 8.e4 Nbd7 9.a4 b4 10.Nbd2 a5 5.d5 #10 20. Fianchetto - White Avoids c4]

[5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 0-0 7.Nc3 d6 8.0-0 Nc6 9.d5 Nb4 10.a3 Na6 11.Be3 Bf5 12.Nd4 Bd7 13.b4 Ng4 14.Qd2 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 Qb6 16.Rfd1 Rac8 17.b5 Nb8 18.a4 Rc4 19.a5 Bxd4 7.h3 Bf3 8.Qf3_58142 (2023)-Sveshnikov with ...gxf6 (1859) 6.bxc3 Bg7 7. Qa4+ Nd7 8.Nf3 00 9.Bg5 c5 2023 Inf87 [John Watson] 0-1 (75)]

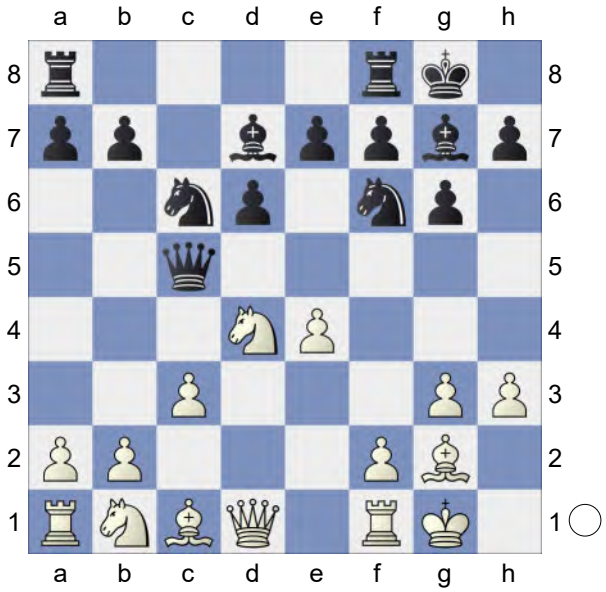
[5.0-0 cxd4 6.Nxd4 0-0 7.c4 Nc6 8.Nc3 Qa5 9.Nc2 d6 10.Bd2 Qh5 11.e4 Ng4 12.h4 Qc5 13.b3 Be6 14.Rb1 a6 15.Nd5 h5 16.Bg5 Combinative Liquidation-In The Opening The MiddleGame - Two [44: Combinative Liquidation]]

5...Qa5+

(Diagram)

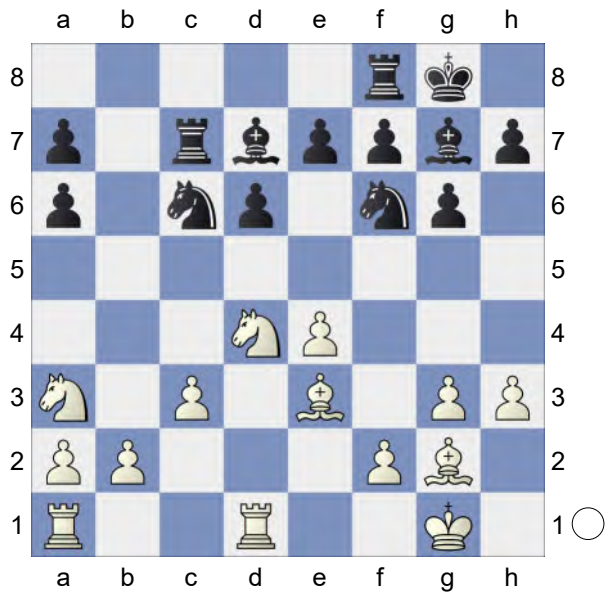


6.c3 Qxc5 7.Nd4 0-0 8.e4 The position is equal. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 d6 10.h3 Bd7**



11.Be3 Qa5 12.Na3 Rac8 13.Qe2 Qa6 14.Qxa6 bxa6 15.Rfd1 Rc7

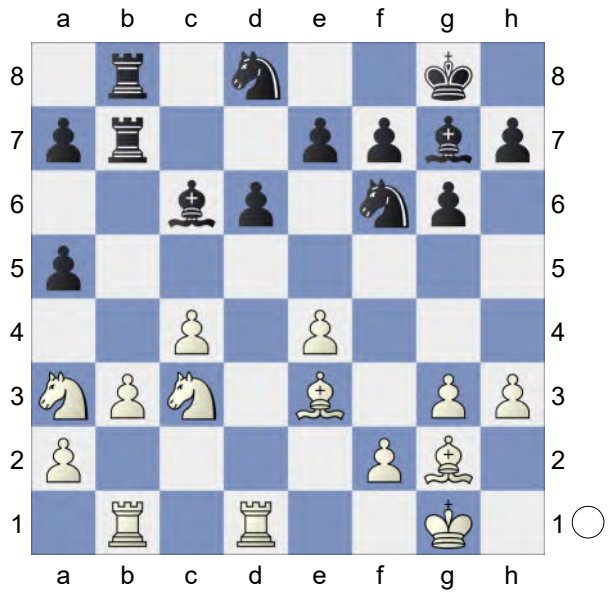
(Diagram)



16.Ne2 Rb8 17.Rab1 a5 18.b3 Nd8 19.c4 Bc6 1.00/22

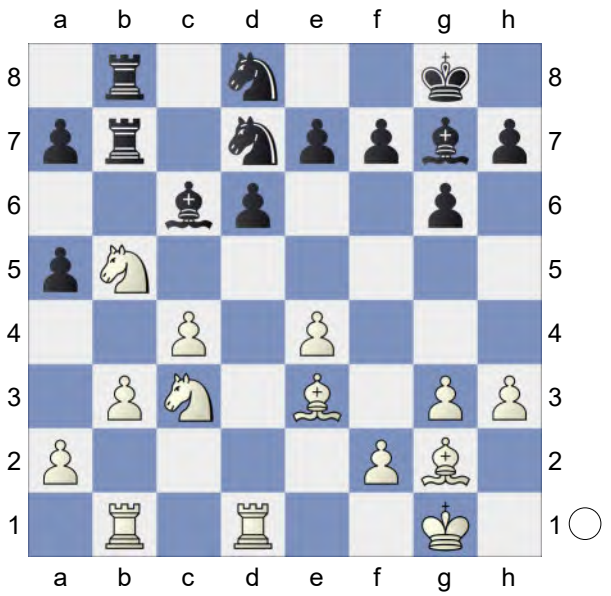
[19...Ne6± 0.41/21]

20.Nc3!± Rcb7



21.Nab5 Nd7

(Diagram)



22.Nd5 0.45/21

0x0.0021694cb1bfdp-1022s more active pieces.

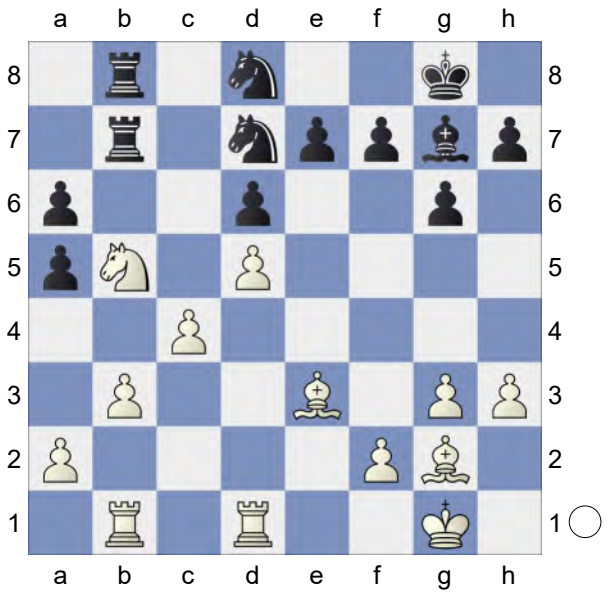
[22.Rbc1!± 1.01/21]

22...Bxd5 1.14/22

[22...Nc5± 0.45/21]

23.exd5 a6 1.75/21

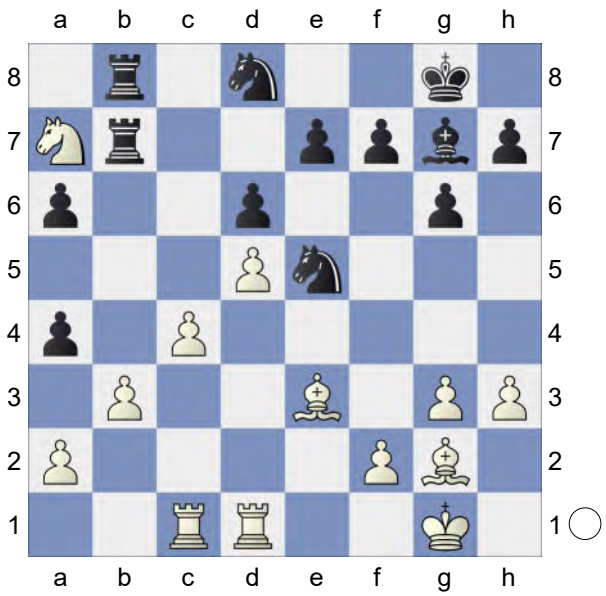
[23...Nc5± 1.22/22]



24.Na7!+- Ne5 25.Rbc1 a4 2.48/24

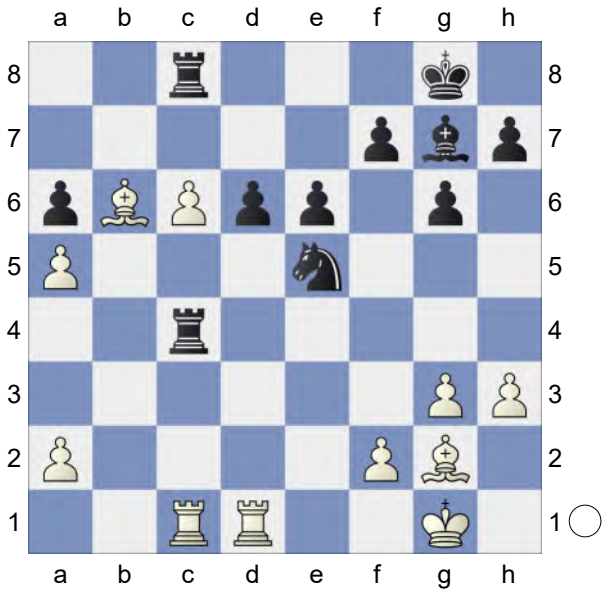
[⌓25...Rc7 1.73/22 26.f4 Nd7]

(Diagram)



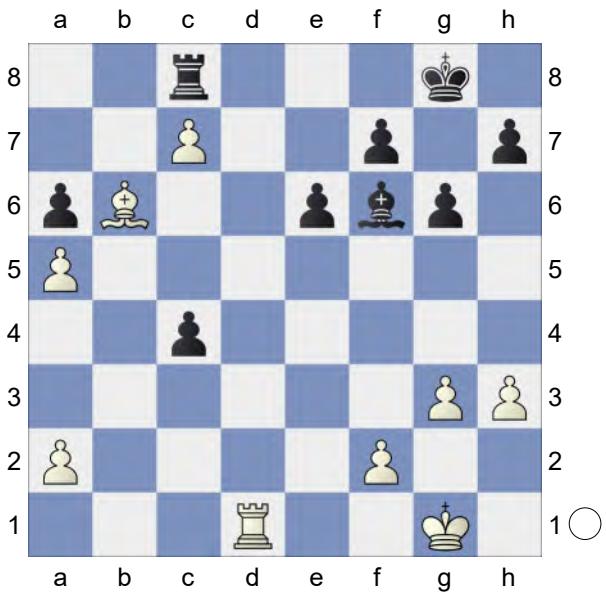
26.bxa4 Rc7 27.a5 aiming for Bb6. **27...Rxc4 28.Nc6 Ndxc6 29.dxc6 Rc8 30.Bb6** A strong pair of Bishops. **30...e6?** 6.48/31

[30...Rxc1 3.88/24 31.Rxc1 e6]

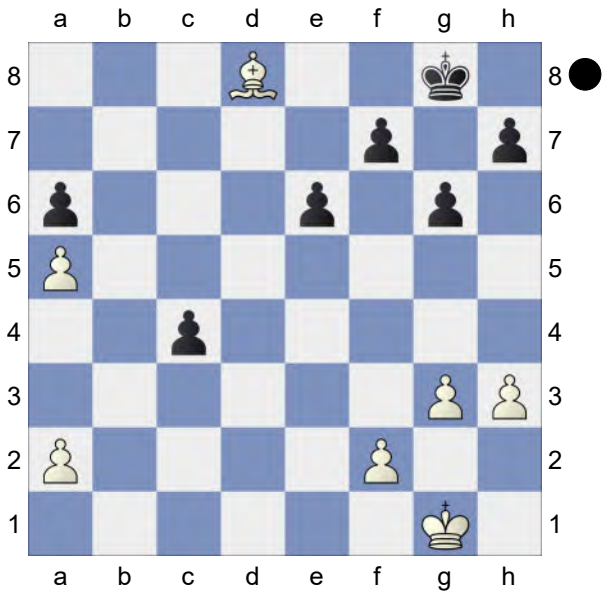


31.c7 d5 32.Bf1 Rxc1 33.Rxc1 Nc4 34.Bxc4 dxc4 35.Rd1 Intending Rd8+ and mate. **35...Bf6**

(Diagram)



36.Rd8+ Bxd8 37.cxd8Q+ Rxd8 38.Bxd8

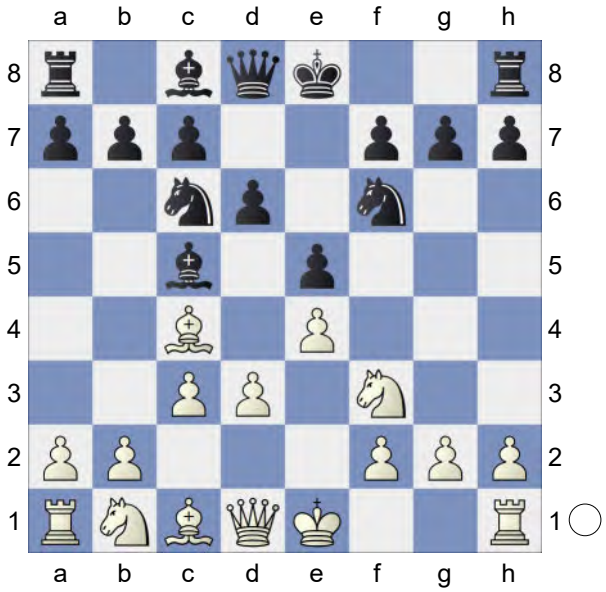


Weighted Error Value: White=0. 09 (flawless) /Black=0.24 (precise)

1-0

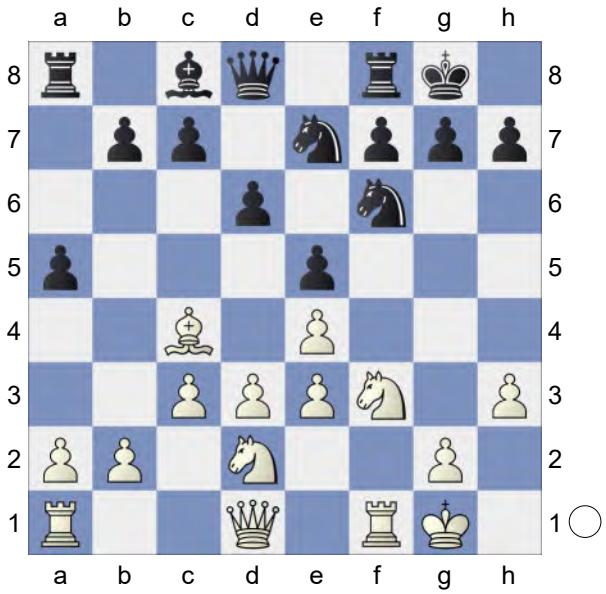
3 **C53**
□ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
■ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
Tata Steel Challengers (1.3) 18.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6**

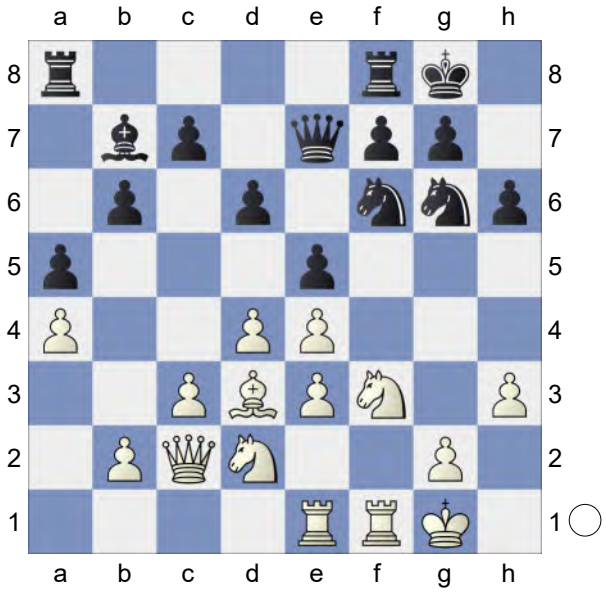


6.0-0 a5 7.h3
[7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2 h6 9.Nf1 a4 10.h3 Ra5 11.Bd2 b5 12.b4 axb3 13.Bxb3 Ra8 14.a4 b4 15.cxb4 Nxb4 16.Bc4 Be6 17.Qb3 Qd7 18.Reb1 Nc6 19.a5 Ra7 20.Ne3 Rb8 21.Bxe6 Rxb3 Kireev, S-Szabo, V corr 145/(104) 2020 Chess Informant 145 [RR]]
7...Ba7N
[7...h6 8.Re1 *(8.d4 Ba7 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Bxf7 Nxe4* #3 38) Italian 5.c3 − White's -6.O-O a5 7.h3*)* 8...g5 9.d4 Ba7 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.Bxf7 g4 14.hxg4 Ke7 #1 38) Italian 5.c3 − White's -6.O-O a5 7.h3]

8.Be3 Bxe3 9.fxe3 0-0 10.Nbd2 Ne7

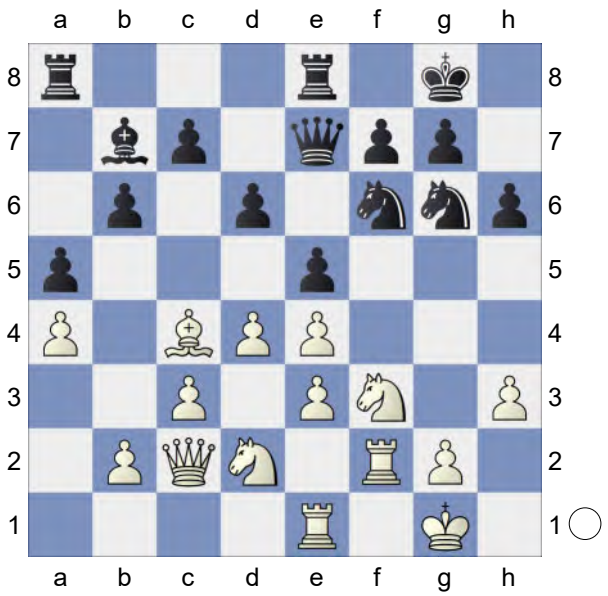


11.d4 Ng6 12.a4 b6 13.Qc2 Bb7 14.Rae1 Qe7 15.Bd3 h6

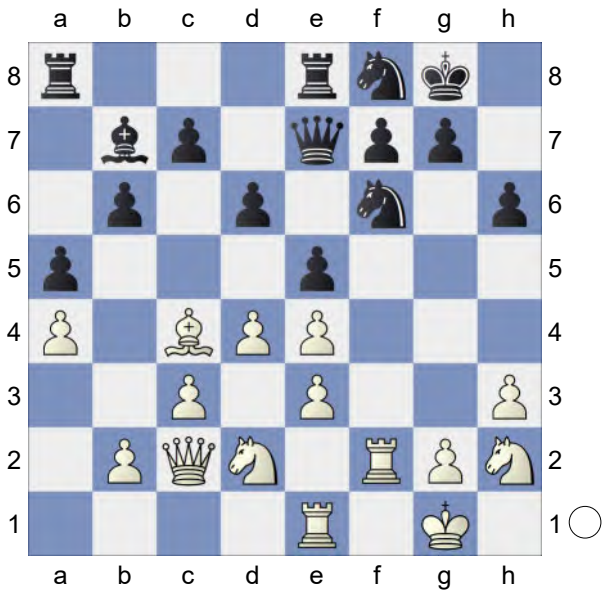


16.Rf2 Rfe8 17.Bb5 Rec8 18.Bc4 Re8 19.Bb5 Rec8 20.Bc4 Re8

(Diagram)

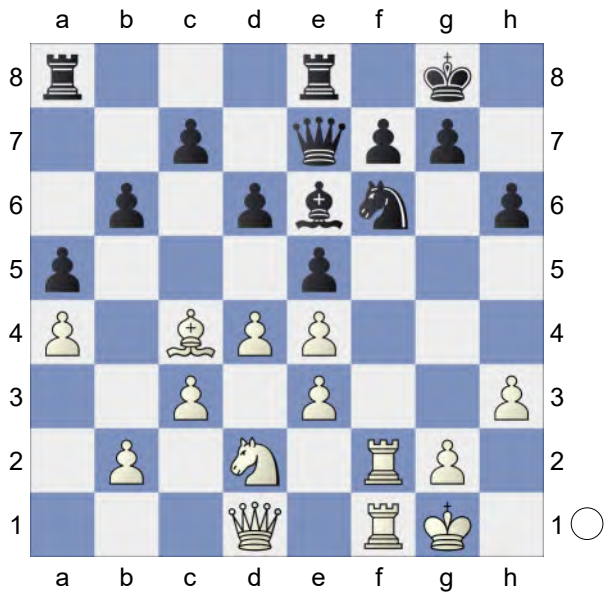


21.Nh2 Nf8 0.50/21
[21...exd4= -0.03/17 22.exd4 d5]

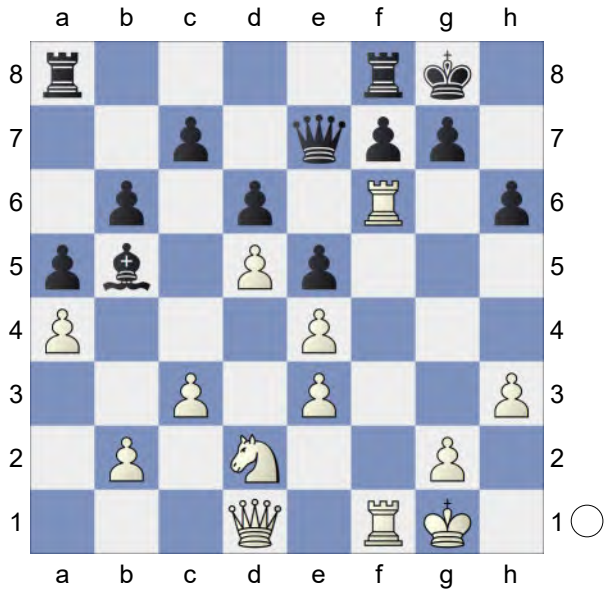


22.Ng4 0.10/20
[22.Rxf6!± 0.50/21 gxf6 *(22...Qxf6 23.Rf1)* 23.Rf1]
22...N8h7 23.Ref1 Bc8 24.Nxf6+ Nxf6 25.Qd1 Be6

(Diagram)

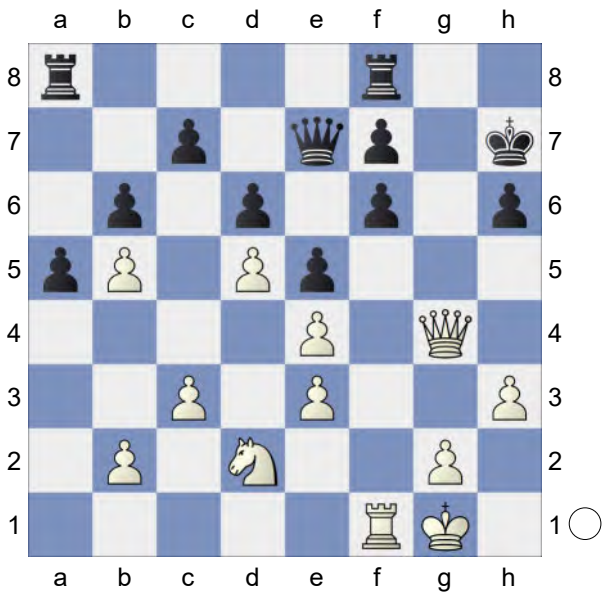


26.Bb5
[26.Bxe6 is more complex. Qxe6 27.Rxf6 gxf6 28.Rf5]
26...Rf8 27.d5 Bd7 The position is equal. **28.Rxf6** Black must now prevent Bxd7! **28...Bxb5**



29.axb5 And now Qg4 would win.
29...gxf6 30.Qg4+ Kh7

(Diagram)

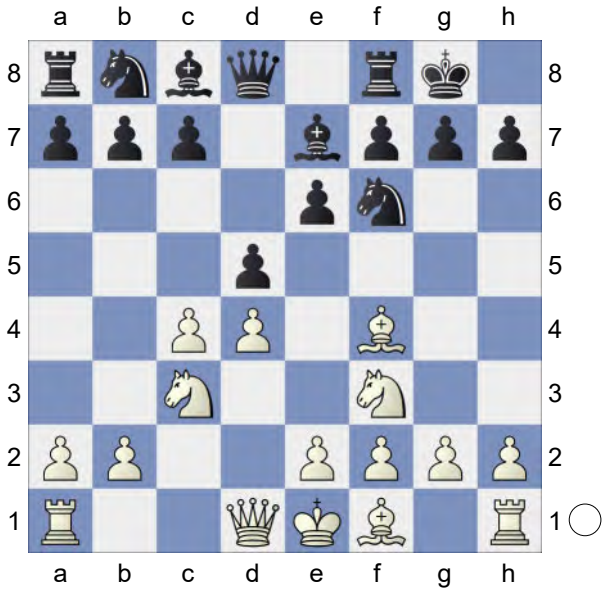


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) / Black=0.08 (flawless)

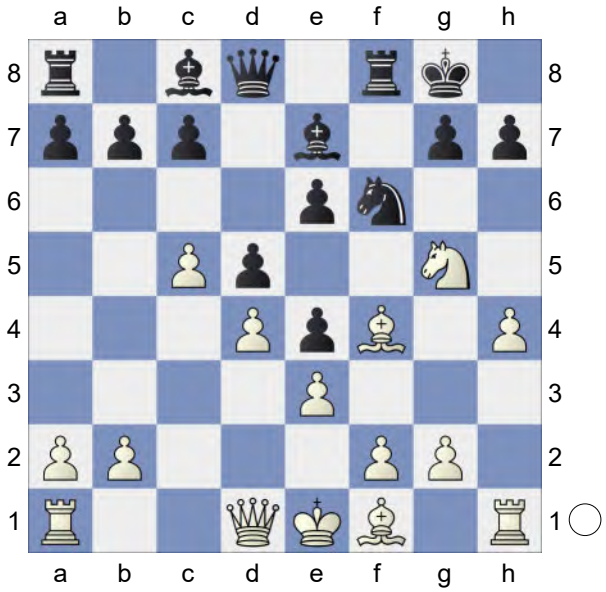
½-½

4 **D37**
□ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
■ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
Tata Steel Challengers (1.4) 18.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D37: Queen's Gambit Declined: 5 Bf4
1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0

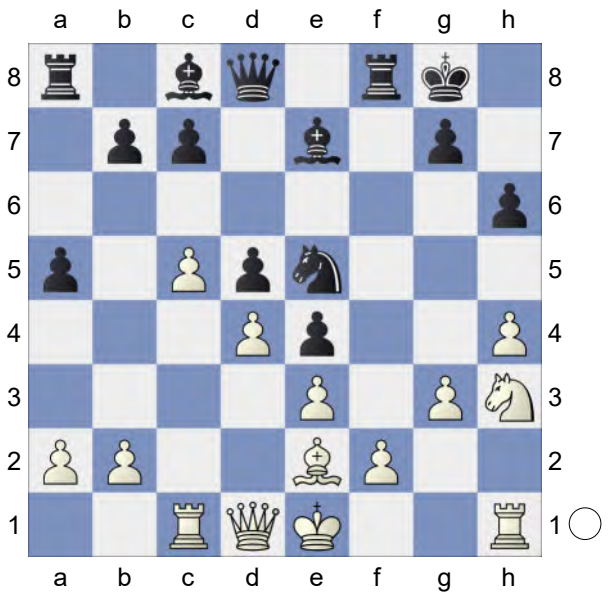


6.e3 Nbd7 7.c5 Ne4 8.h4N
[8.Rc1 f5 *(8...Nxc3 9.Rxc3 c6 10.Bd3 b6 11.b4 a5 12.a3 axb4 13.axb4 Ba6 14.0-0 Qc8 15.cxb6 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 Qb7 17.b5 Rfc8 18.bxc6 Rxc6 19.Rxc6 Qxc6 20.Rb1 Nxb6 21.Ne5 Qb7 22.Qb5* Queen'S Gambit-7.c5 Ne4 8.Rc1 Survey 2020 Lexikon20 [Ftacnik]*)* 9.h3 c6 10.Be2 Bf6 11.0-0 Qe8 12.Bh2 b6 13.Nxe4 fxe4 14.Ne5 Bxe5 15.Bxe5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Bd7 17.Qd4 b5 18.f4 exf3 19.gxf3 Qh5 20.Kh2 Be8 21.Rg1 Bg6 22.Rg3 Bf5 1 Chapter-Games Game -]
[8.Qc2 f5 *(8...g5 9.Bg3 f5 10.h3 Nxg3 11.fxg3 Nf6 12.Bd3 Ne4 13.g4 Ng3 14.Rh2 c6 15.Ne2 Qa5+ 16.Kf2 Ne4+ 17.Kg1* D 37/16 *)* 9.Bd3 c6 10.Ne5 Bf6 11.Nxd7 Bxd7 12.f3 Ng5 13.Bxg5 Bxg5 14.f4 Be7 15.a3 b6 16.b4 g5 17.g3 Kh8 18.Be2 gxf4 19.gxf4 Rg8 20.Kd2 Qf8 21.Rag1 bxc5 22.bxc5 Rb8 11...Qc7 12.Nbd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2752)-Grube,J (2711) Sollentuna 2012 A Ferocious Opening Rep. [Zsolt Karacsony] 1-0 (48)]
8...f5 9.Nxe4 The position is equal.
9...fxe4 10.Ng5 Nf6

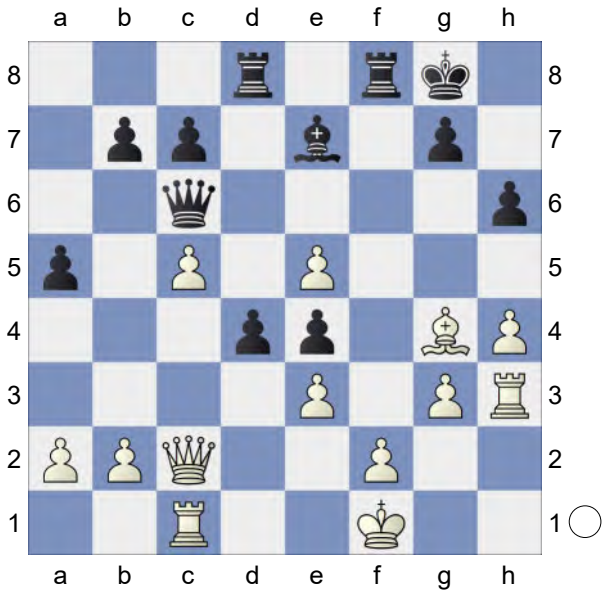


11.g3 a5 12.Be2 h6 13.Nh3 Nd7 14.Rc1 e5 15.Bxe5 Nxe5

(Diagram)

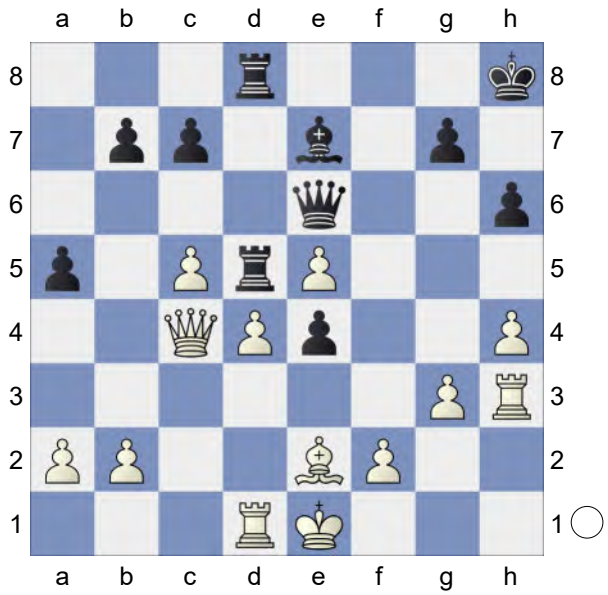


16.dxe5 Bxh3 17.Rxh3 Qd7 18.Bg4 Qc6 19.Qc2 -0.43/19
[19.Kf1= -0.08/16 might be stronger.]
19...Rad8 0.01/17
[19...Kh8∓ -0.43/19 was preferrable.]
20.Kf1 -0.53/20
[20.a3= 0.01/17]
20...d4 -0.01/19
[20...Kh8∓ -0.53/20]

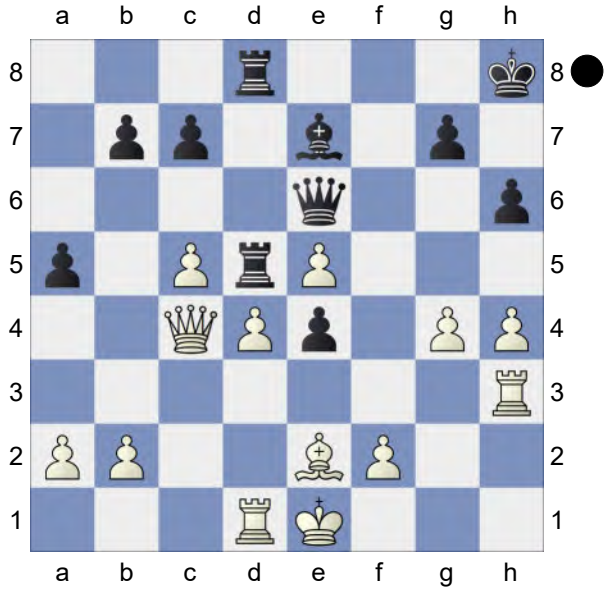


21.Qc4+= Kh8 And now ...dxe3 would win. **22.exd4 Rd5! 23.Rd1** 0.01/21
[23.h5± 0.46/19]

23...Rfd8! 24.Ke1 -0.62/20
[24.Rh1= 0.01/20 Bxc5 25.Kg2 *(25.dxc5? Rxd1+ 26.Kg2 Rxh1-+)* 25...Rxd4 26.Rxd4 Rxd4 27.Qf7]
24...Qg6∓ 25.Be2 Qe6



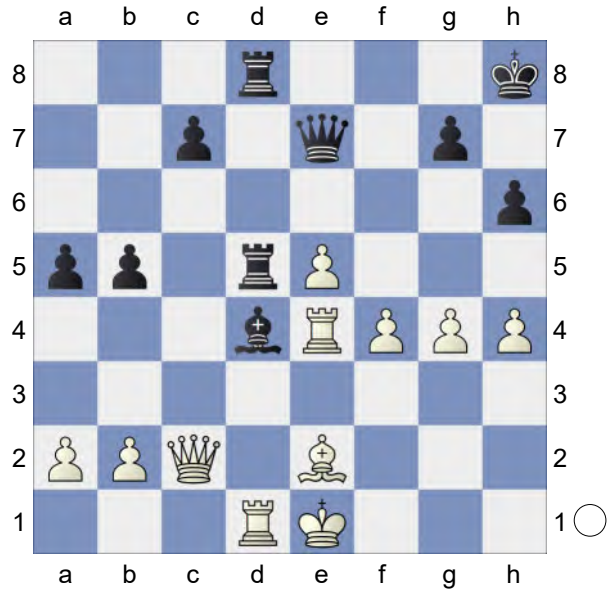
26.g4!



Bxc5! ...b5! is the strong threat. **27.Re3**
[27.Rb3 Qg8]
27...b5! 28.Qc2 -1.37/21
[28.Qb3∓ -0.63/22 a4 29.Qc2 *(29.Qxb5? Bxd4 30.Rxd4 Rxd4-+)* 29...Bxd4 30.Rxe4]
28...Bxd4∓ 29.Rxe4 Qf7 0.52/22

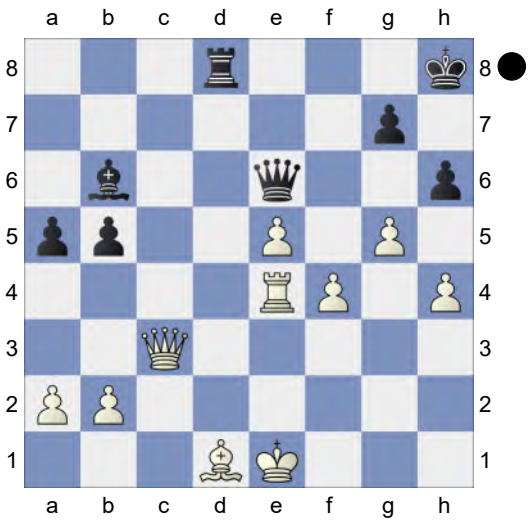
[29...Bxe5 30.f4 Rxd1+ 31.Bxd1=]
[Black should play 29...c5!∓ -0.66/20 30.f4 h5]

30.f4± Qe7!



31.g5 Qe6 Inhibits Qc6. Strongly threatening ...Qh3. **32.Rd3** 0.33/19 Against Qh3

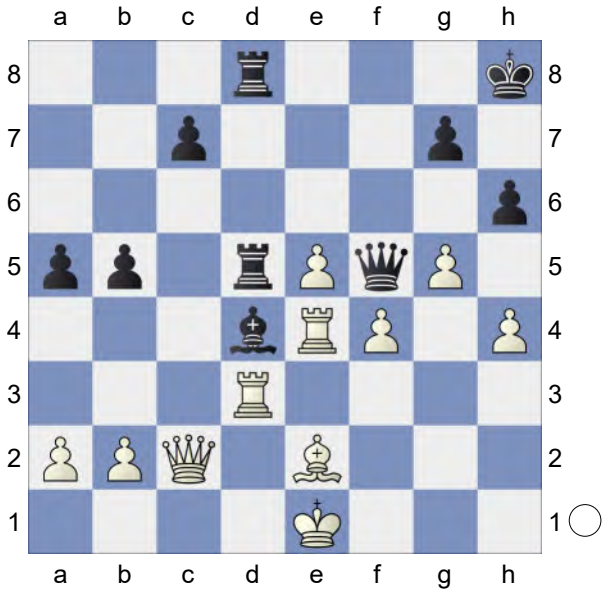
[Not 32.Qxc7? Bb6 33.Qc3 Rxd1+ 34.Bxd1



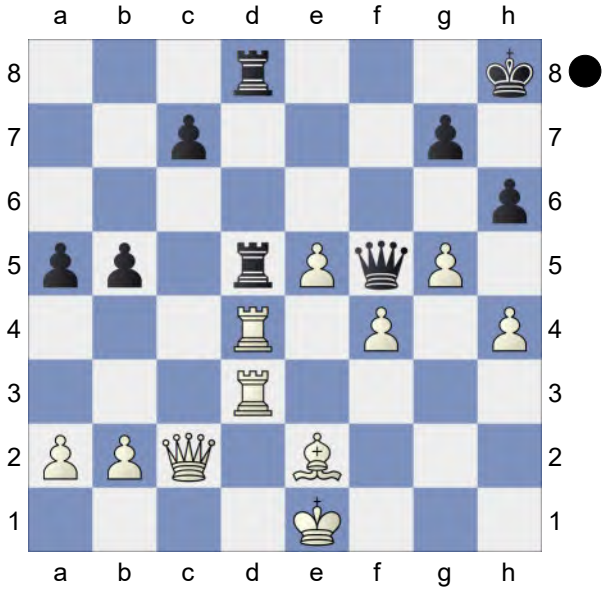
Rxd1+! 35.Kxd1 Qd5+ 36.Rd4 Bxd4 37.Qc8+ Kh7 38.Qc2+ Kh8 39.Qc8+ Kh7 40.Qc2+ Kg8 41.Qc8+ Kh7-+]
[32.Qb3± 1.04/19 a4 33.Qf3]

32...Qf5? 9.74/19

[32...Ba7± 0.33/19 33.Rxd5 *(33.Qxc7? Rxd3 34.Qxa7 Rd2-+)* 33...Rxd5]



33.Rexd4!

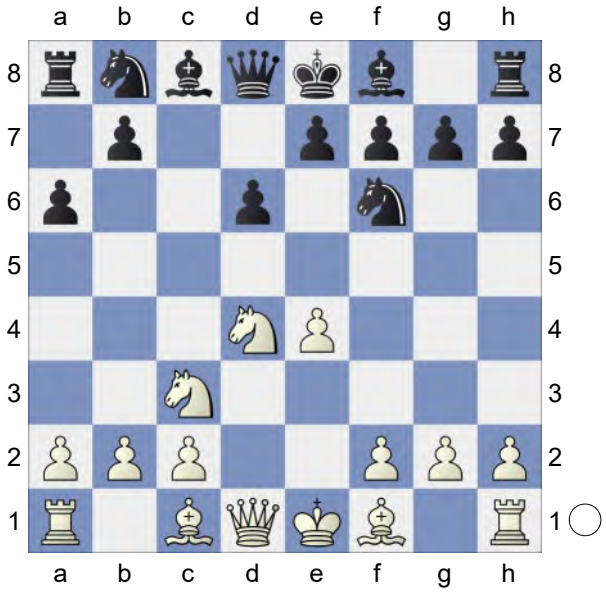


Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)

1-0

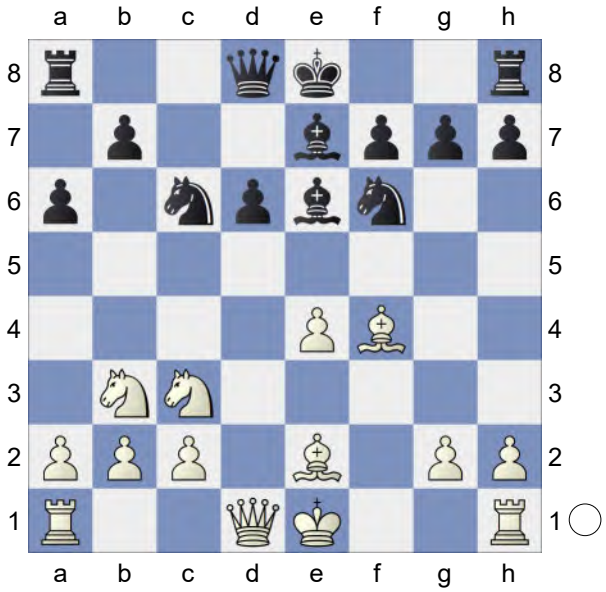
5 **B90**
□ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
■ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
Tata Steel Challengers (1.5) 18.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B92: Sicilian Najdorf: 6 Be2 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6**



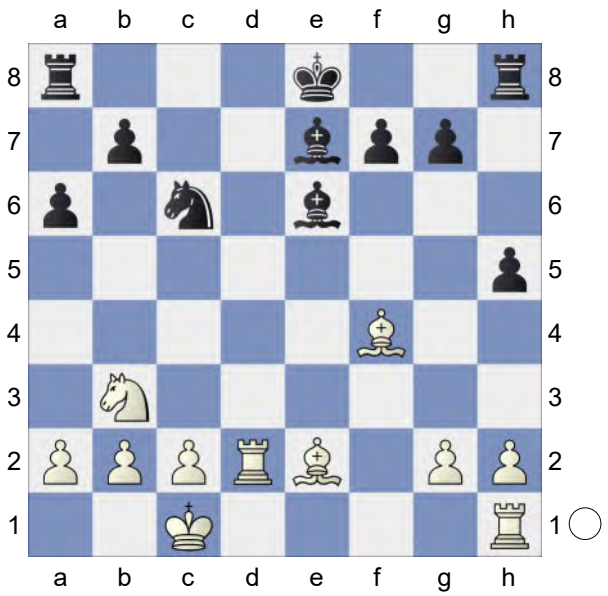
6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be2
[8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.0-0-0 Rc8 10.h3 Be7 11.g4 0-0 12.g5 Nh5 13.Be2 Nf4 14.Bxf4 exf4 15.h4 Ne5 16.Nd4 g6 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5 h6 19.Qxf4 hxg5 20.Qe4 Re8 21.hxg5 Bxg5+ 22.f4 Nd7 6.dc5___ (2643)-Lunacek,J (2720) Chicago 2022 CBM 087 Extra [John Watson] 0-1 (75)]
[8.f3 h5 9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Nbd7 11.Qd2 g6 12.0-0-0 Nb6 13.Kb1 Nfxd5 14.Bg5 Be7 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Qa5 Ne3 17.Qxb6 Nxd1 18.Bc4 Rc8 19.Nd2 Nxb2 20.Kxb2 Rc6 21.Qe3 Qc7 22.Qd3 Ke7 C 58/01 (2607)-10.Bd4 Be6 11.Kb1 Qc7 (2497) Al Ain 2023 200 Traps In The Opening [Adly, Ahmed] 1-0 (34)]

8...Be7 9.f4N
[9.f3 h5 10.Qd2 Nbd7 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Bf5 13.0-0 Rc8 14.c4 Nc5 15.Nxc5 dxc5 16.Bd3 g6 17.Qe2 Qd6 18.Bd2 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 f5 20.Bc3 Kf7 21.Rfe1 Bf6 22.Kh1 Rce8 23.Re2 Re7 Sharevich, A (2026)-3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0-0 (2162) Mexico City 2022 CBM 72 ext [John Watson] 0-1 (54)]
9...exf4 10.Bxf4 Nc6

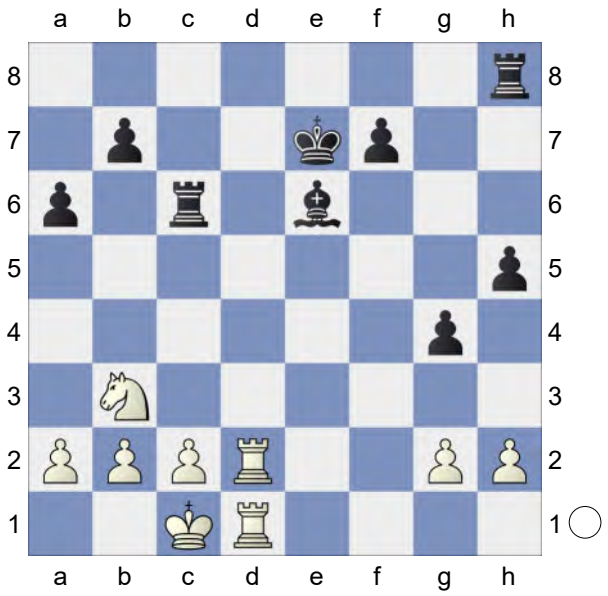


11.Qd2 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.0-0-0 Qxd2+
[14...Qf5 keeps more tension. 15.Bd3 Qh5 16.Be2 Qf5]
15.Rxd2 h5

(Diagram)

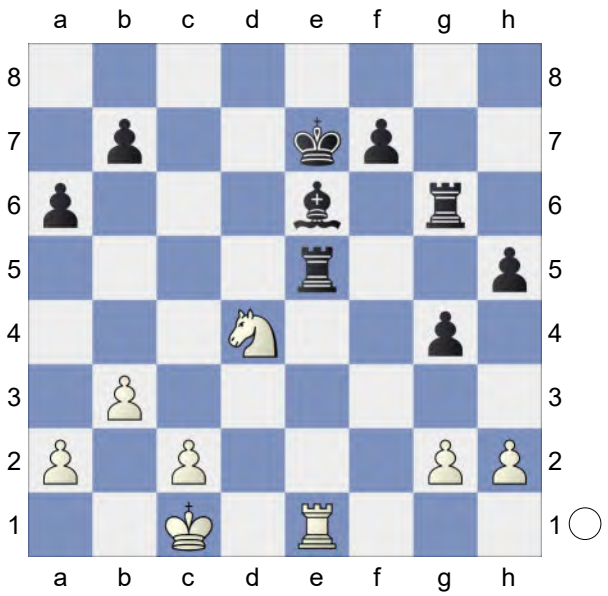


16.Rhd1 Rc8 17.Bf3 g5 18.Bd6 g4 19.Bxc6+ Rxc6 20.Bxe7 Kxe7

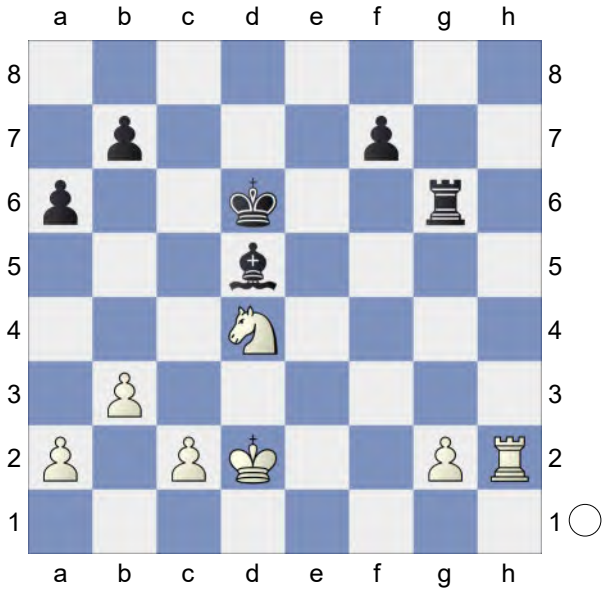


21.Nd4 Rc7 22.b3 Rg8 23.Re1 Rc5
Prevents Re5. **24.Rde2 Rg6! 25.Re5**
-0.04/19
[25.Kb2± 0.33/20
is more appropriate.]
25...Rxe5=

(Diagram)

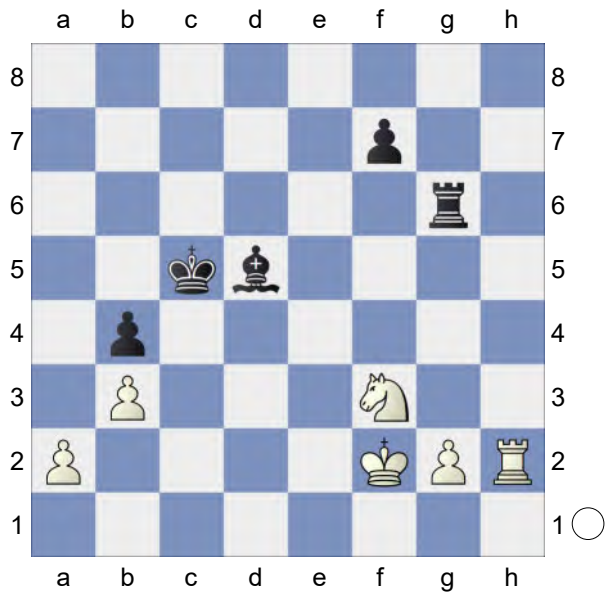


26.Rxe5 Endgame KRB-KRN **26...h4 27.Rh5 g3 28.Rxh4 gxh2 29.Rxh2 Kd6 30.Kd2 Bd5**

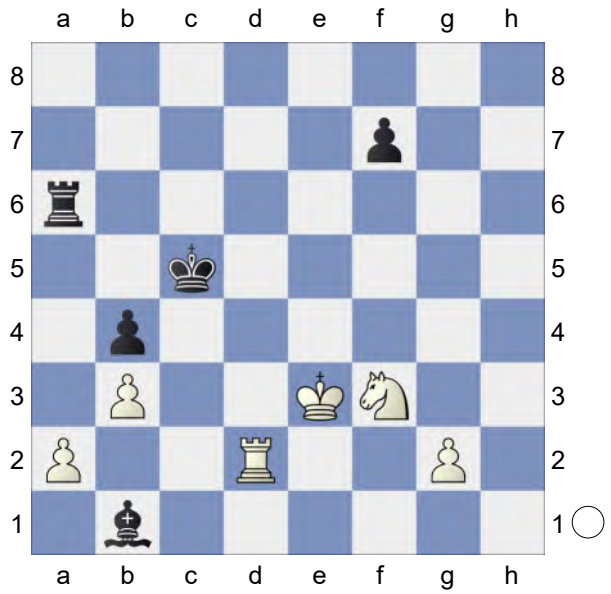


31.Nf3
[31.g3!?]
31...Kc5 32.c3 a5 0.72/22
[32...b5± 0.39/17]
33.Ke3 b5! 34.Kf2 b4 35.cxb4+ axb4

(Diagram)

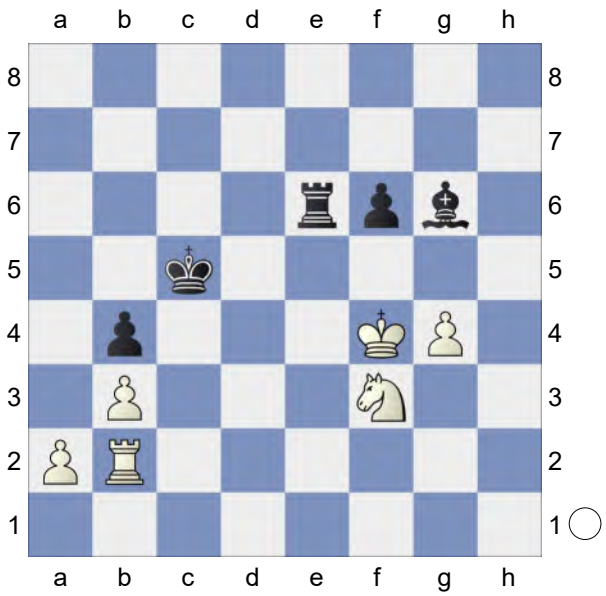


36.Rh1 Ra6 37.Rc1+ Kd6 0.83/22
[37...Kb5± 0.47/23]
38.Rc2± Be4 39.Rd2+ Kc5 40.Ke3 Bb1

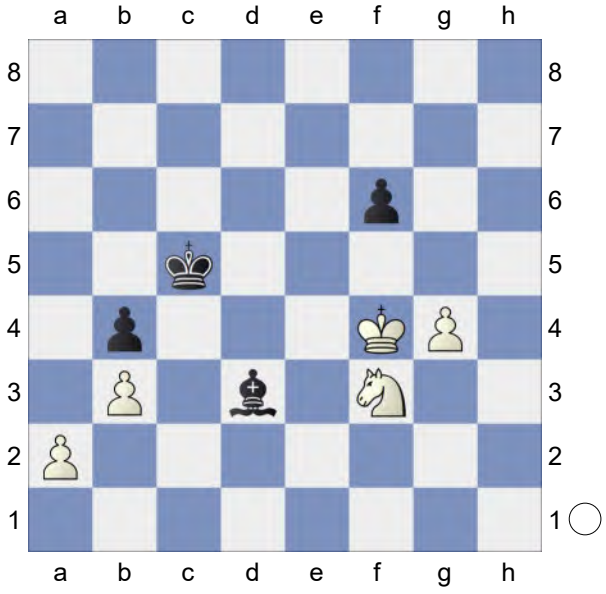


41.Rb2 Re6+ 42.Kf2 Bg6 43.g4 f6 44.Kg3 Ra6 45.Kf4 Re6

(Diagram)

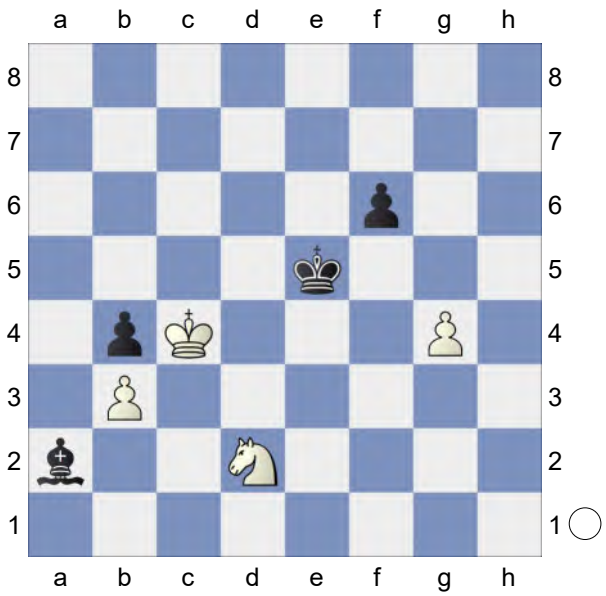


46.Rd2 Re4+ 47.Kg3 Re3 48.Rd8 0.01/22
[48.Rh2± 0.38/21 should be considered.]
48...Be4!= The position is equal. **49.Kf4 Rd3 50.Rxd3 Bxd3**

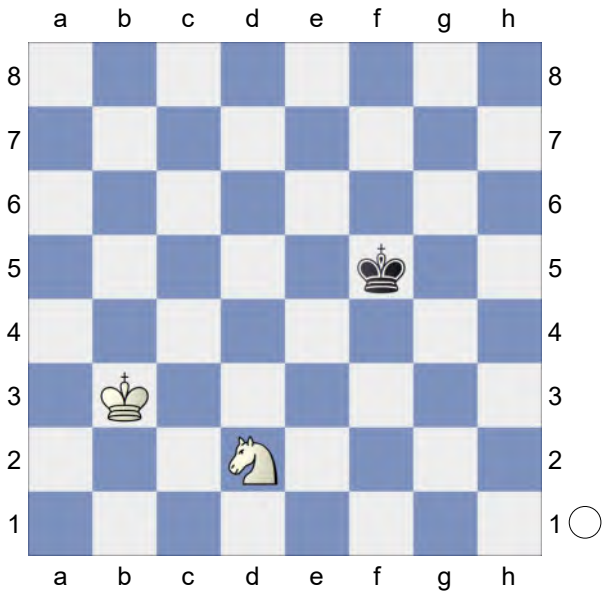


KB-KN **51.Ke3 Bb1 52.Nd2 Bxa2 53.Ke4 Kd6 54.Kd4 Ke6 55.Kc4 Ke5**

(Diagram)



56.Kxb4 Kf4 57.Ka3 Bxb3 58.Kxb3 f5 59.gxf5 Kxf5



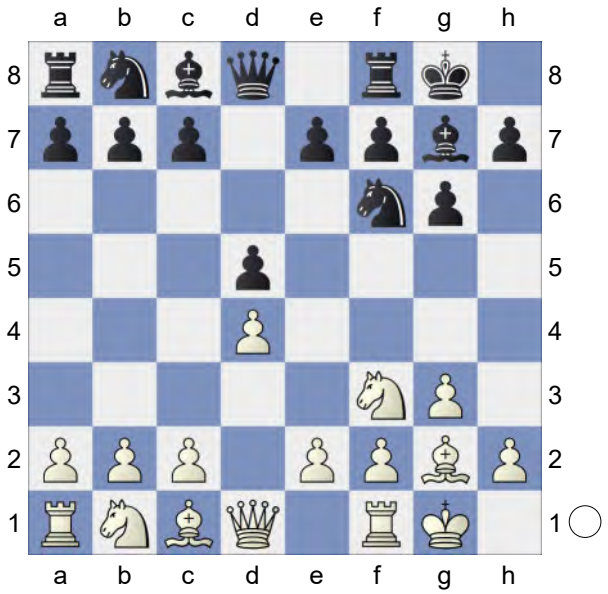
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

½-½

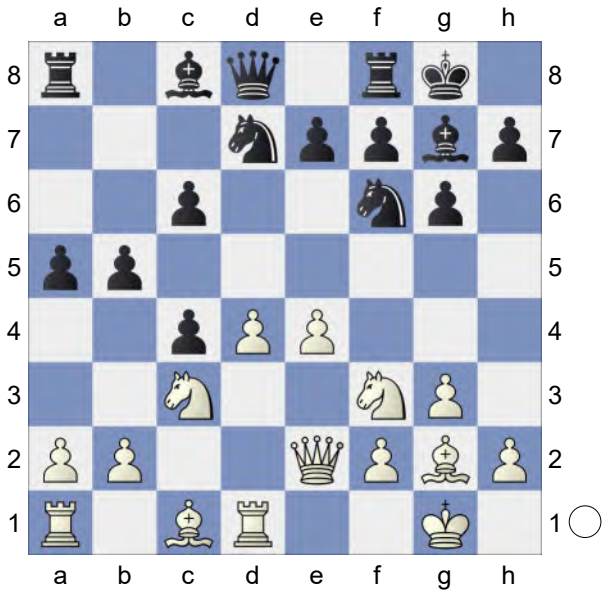
6 **D78**
□ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
■ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
Tata Steel Challengers (1.6) 18.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D78: Fianchetto Grünfeld: 6 0-0 c6 **1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d4 Nf6 5.0-0 0-0N**

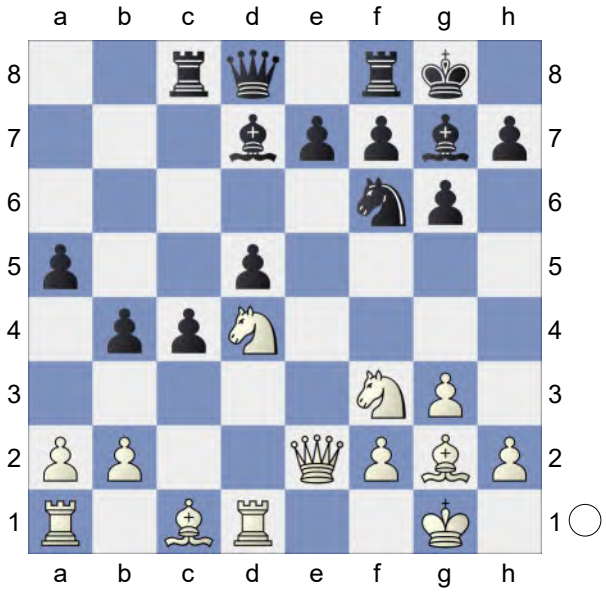
[5...c6 6.b3 0-0 7.c4 a5 8.Nc3 Ne4 9.Bb2 Nxc3 10.Bxc3 a4 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.bxa4 Bd7 13.Qb3 Bxa4 14.Qxb7 Nc6 15.Rfb1 Qd6 16.Qb2 Winter (2791)-Deslandes,P (2835) Paris 2020 200 Traps In The Opening [M.Botvinnik] Na5 17.Bb4 Qe6 18.e3 Nc4 19.Qe2 Bb5 20.Qe1 Rfb8 21.Nd2 Qd7 22.Nb3 e5 23.dxe5 Nxe5 24.Bc3 Bc4 25.Qd2 Qf5 26.Rd1 h5 27.Nd4 Qd7 28.h4 Ra3 29.Rdc1 Rba8 30.Rc2 Bd3 31.Rcc1 Ding,L (2791)-Caruana,F (2835) chess24.com (Int.-m/5-blitz) 146/(149) 2020 [Moradiabadi,Elshan] (36)]



6.c4 c6 7.Nc3 dxc4 8.e4 b5 9.Qe2 a5 10.Rd1 Nbd7



11.d5 The position is equal. **11...cxd5 12.e5 b4! 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Nb5 Bd7** Black has compensation. **15.Nbd4 Rc8**



16.Ne5 e6 17.Bh3 Re8 18.Qf3 -0.61/18

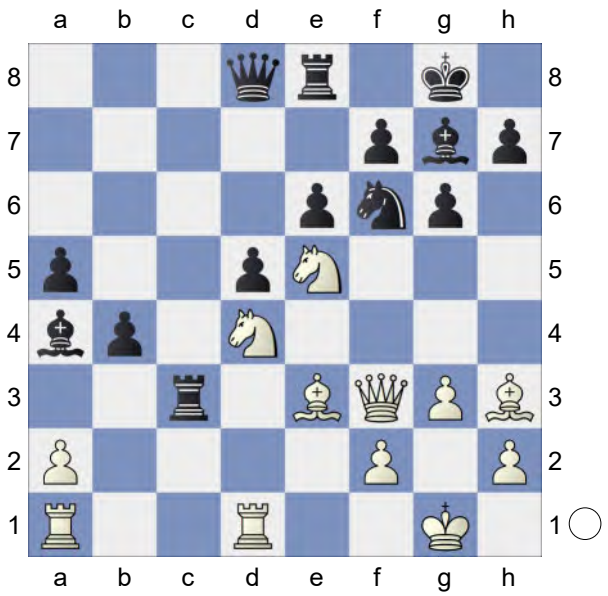
[18.Bg2!= -0.11/19]

18...c3∓ 19.bxc3 Rxc3 20.Be3 -1.37/20

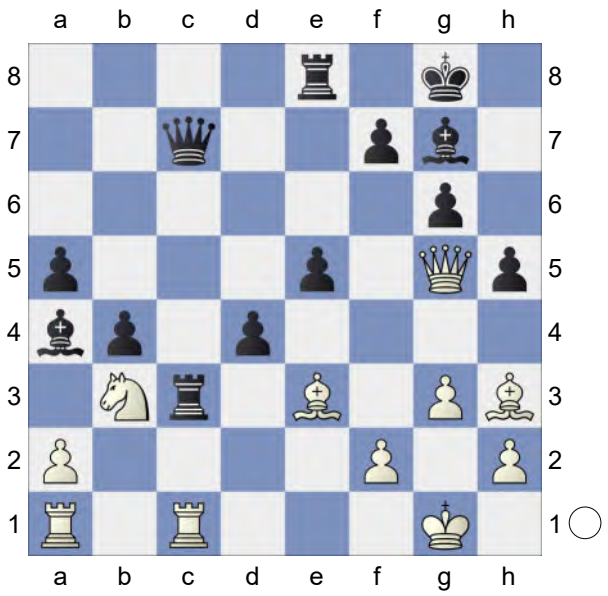
[20.Qf4!∓ -0.53/21 h6 21.Nxd7 Nxd7 22.Qd2]

20...Ba4∓

(Diagram)

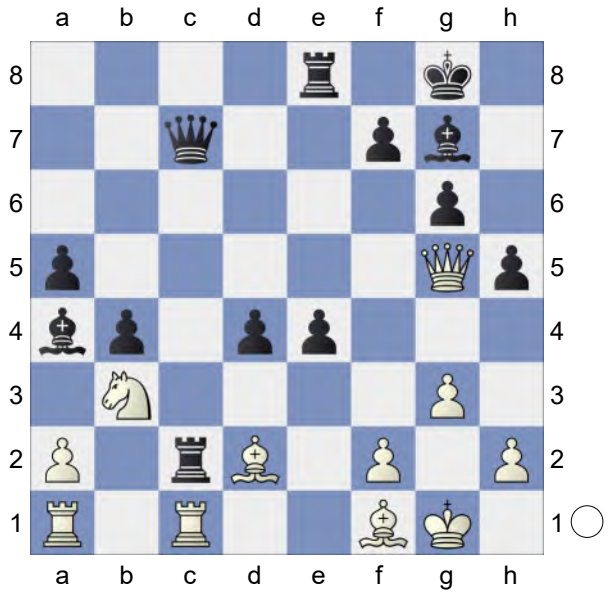


21.Rdc1 Qc7 22.Ng4 Nxg4 23.Qxg4 h5 -0.94/21
[⌓23...e5 -1.56/21 24.Nb3 *(24.Ne2? Rc2-+)* 24...d4]
24.Qg5? -2.52/21
[24.Qh4∓ -0.94/21 is a better defense.]
24...e5-+ 25.Nb3 d4

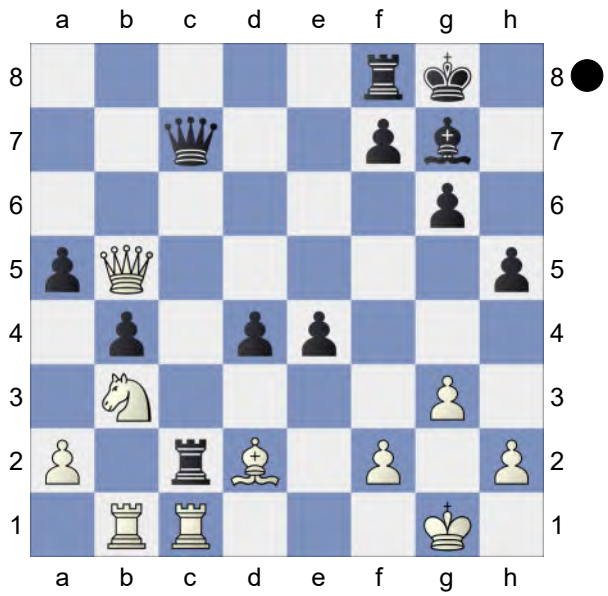


26.Bd2 Rc2 -0.61/19
[26...Bc6-+ -1.88/17 Strongly threatening ...Bb7. 27.Bg2 Bxg2 28.Kxg2 *(28.Bxc3? Ba8-+)* 28...Rc2]

27.Bf1!∓ e4

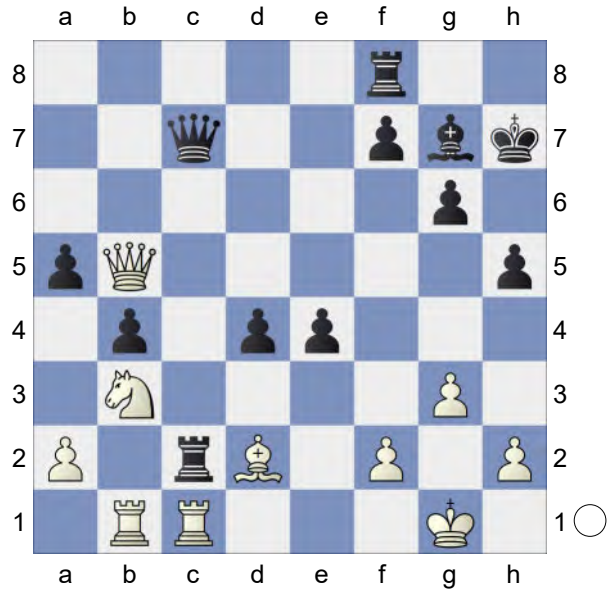


...e3! is the strong threat. **28.Bb5?** -1.94/20
[28.Bf4= -0.14/22 and White is okay. Qc8 29.Qxa5 Bxb3 30.axb3]
28...Bxb5-+ 29.Qxb5 Rf8 -0.13/23
[29...Re5-+ -2.28/21 30.Qf1 Rf5]
30.Rab1 -1.03/20
[30.Bf4= -0.13/23 remains equal. Qc3 31.Rxc2 *(31.Qxa5 e3=)* 31...Qxc2 32.Rf1]



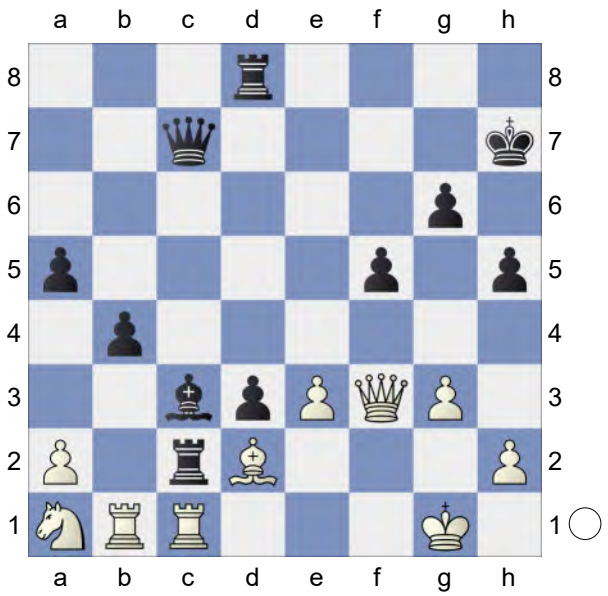
30...Kh7? 0.48/23

[30...h4!∓ -1.03/20]

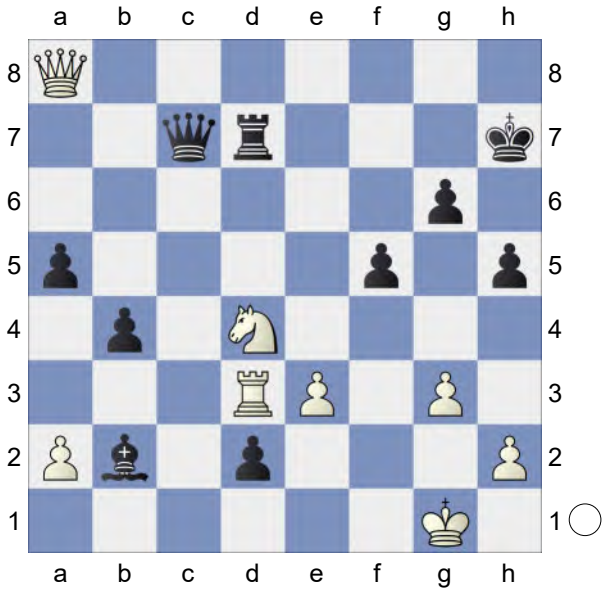


31.Qd5 -0.70/27
[31.Nxa5 e3 32.Nc4 *(32.fxe3 dxe3 33.Bxe3 Bd4∓)* 32...Rb8∓]
[White should try 31.Bf4!± 0.48/23 Qc3 32.Qxa5 *(32.Nxa5 e3∓)*]
31...e3∓ 32.fxe3 Rd8! 33.Qe4
[But not 33.Rxc2? Qxc2 34.Qxd8 Qxb1+ 35.Kf2 *(35.Nc1? Qc2-+)* 35...Qxa2 36.Qxa5 dxe3+ 37.Ke2 Qb2-+]
33...d3 aiming for ...f5. **34.Na1** -1.42/24
[34.Nd4∓ -0.45/25 Qc4 35.Rxc2 dxc2 36.Rc1 Qxa2 37.Qxc2 *(37.Rxc2? Qb1+ 38.Kf2 Rxd4-+)*]
34...f5↑ Black is really pushing. Dancing on a razor blade. &Nero is much more active. **35.Qf3** -3.65/23
[35.Qg2∓ -1.52/21 Bxa1 36.Rxa1]
35...Bc3? -0.20/21

(Diagram)

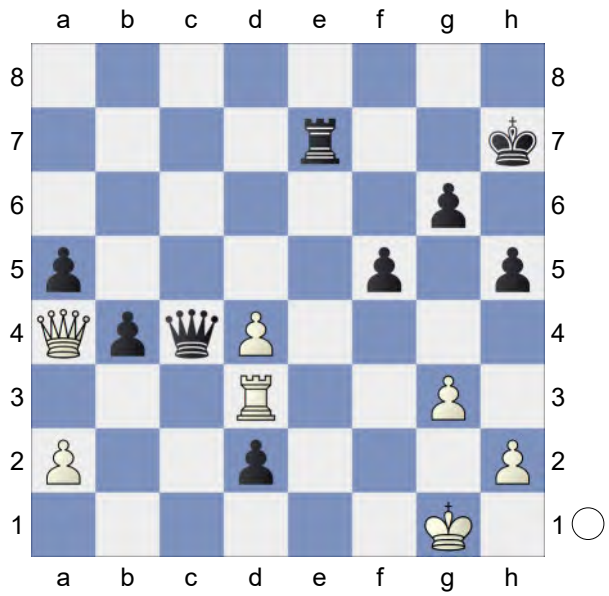


36.Nxc2= Bxd2 37.Nd4 -4.02/22 **Bxc1-+ 38.Rb3** -8.33/24
[⌓38.Ne6 -4.45/22 d2 39.Nxc7 d1Q+ 40.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 41.Kg2]
38...d2 39.Rd3 Rd7 Hoping for ...Qc4.
40.Qa8 Bb2 -10.18/23
[⌓40...Qc4 -21.42/26 41.Qe8 Rb7 42.Rxd2 Bxd2]



41.Qe8 Bxd4 42.exd4 Re7 43.Qa4 Qc4

(Diagram)



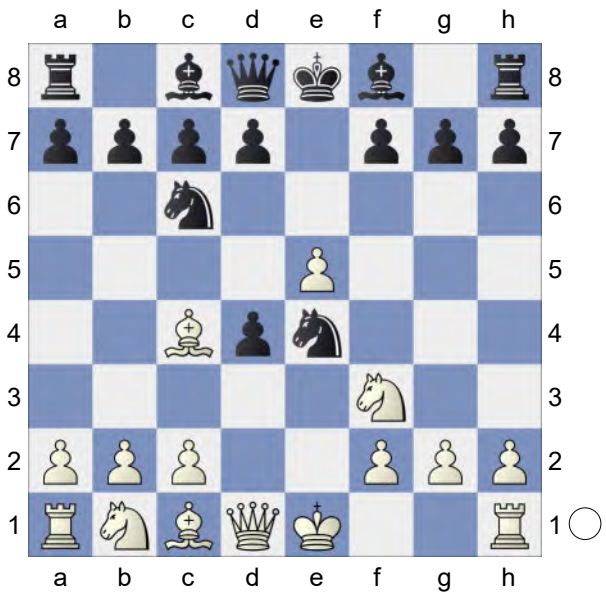
Weighted Error Value: White=1.13/ Black=0.58

0-1

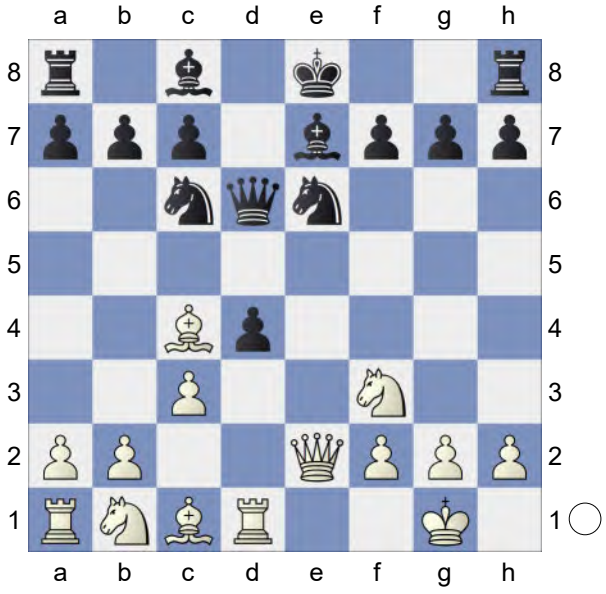
7 **C44**
□ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
■ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
Tata Steel Challengers (1.7) 18.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C56: Two Knights: 4 d4 exd4 5 0-0 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5
[5.0-0 Be7 *(5...d6 6.Nxd4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Re1 Re8 9.h3 h6 10.a3 Bf8 11.Bf4 Ne5 12.Ba2 Ng6 13.Bh2 Bd7 14.Qf3 c6 15.Nf5 Bxf5 16.Qxf5 Ne5 17.Rad1 Qc8 18.Qxc8 Raxc8 19.b4 Rcd8 20.Kf1* Minnekhanov,E (1750)-Demezhanov, T (1776) Almaty KAZ 2024 0-1 (38)*)* 6.Nxd4 0-0 7.Nc3 Ne5 8.Bb3 d6 9.f4 Ned7 10.Qf3 Nc5 11.Bc4 Re8 12.Re1 Bg4 13.Qf2 Nfxe4 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.Rxe4 d5 16.Rxe7 Qxe7 17.Bf1 c5 18.Nf3 f6 19.Bd2 Bf5 Chapter 10 C1 Reti Variation (2341)-2. Nc3 Bb4 3.Qc2 Nf6_2 (2064) corr 2006 CBM 152 Extra [Dragan Solak] 1-0 (41)]
5...Ne4N
[5...Ng4 6.0-0 d6 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.Re1+ Be7 9.h3 Nf6 10.c3 0-0 11.cxd4 h6 12.Nc3 Bf5 13.Bf4 #6 Italian Two Knights Side-Two Knights: 5...Ng4]

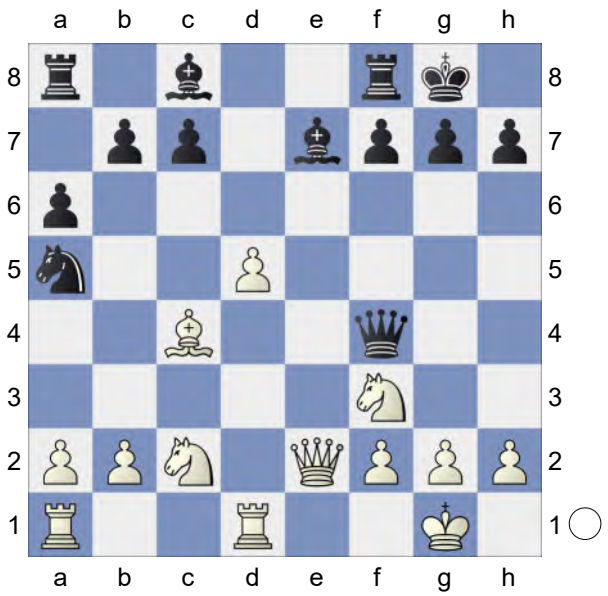
(Diagram)



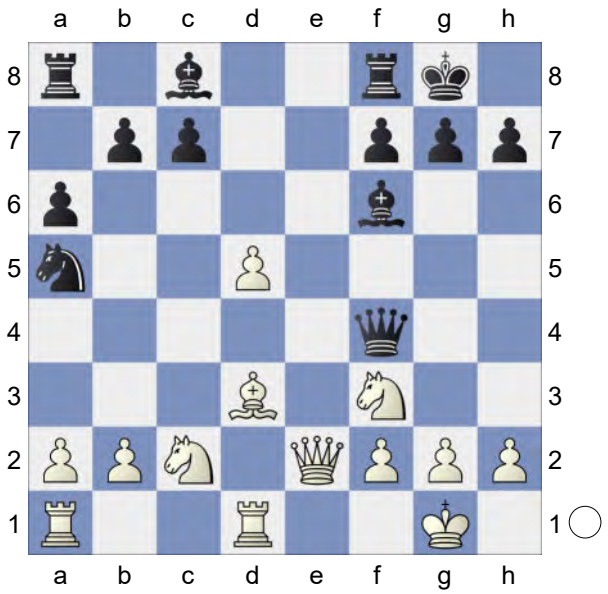
6.Qe2 Nc5
[6...Bb4+ 7.Kd1 f5 8.exf6±]
7.0-0 Be7 8.Rd1 Ne6 0.44/18
[8...d5= 0.10/18 was preferrable. 9.exd6 cxd6]
9.c3± White is slightly better. **9...d5 10.exd6! Qxd6**



11.Na3 Hoping for Nb5. **11...a6** Prevents Nb5. **12.Nc2 0-0** 0.75/20
[12...Na5!= 0.27/19]
13.cxd4± d5 is the strong threat. **13...Nf4 14.Bxf4 Qxf4 15.d5↑** White is in control. **15...Na5**

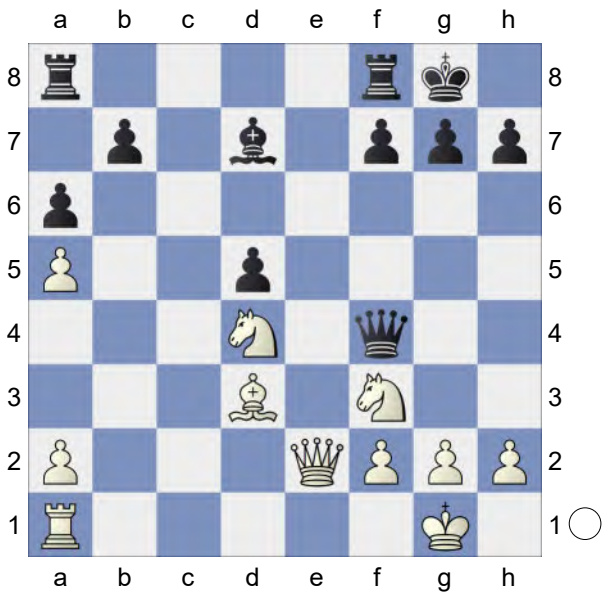


16.Bd3
[16.Qxe7 Nxc4 17.Qb4 *(17.Rd4 Qd6=)* 17...a5±]
16...Bf6

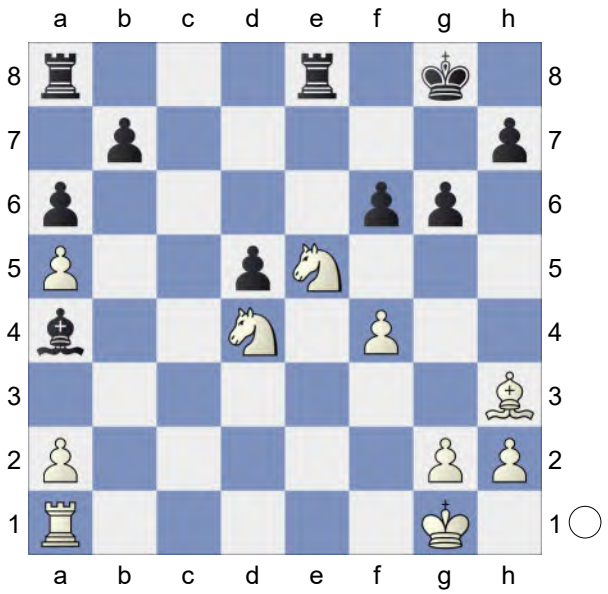


17.b4 Bxa1 18.Rxa1 c6 19.bxa5 cxd5 20.Ncd4 1.33/19
[White should try 20.Qe7+- 1.88/18 Bf5 21.Bxf5 Qxf5 22.Ne3]
20...Bd7

(Diagram)

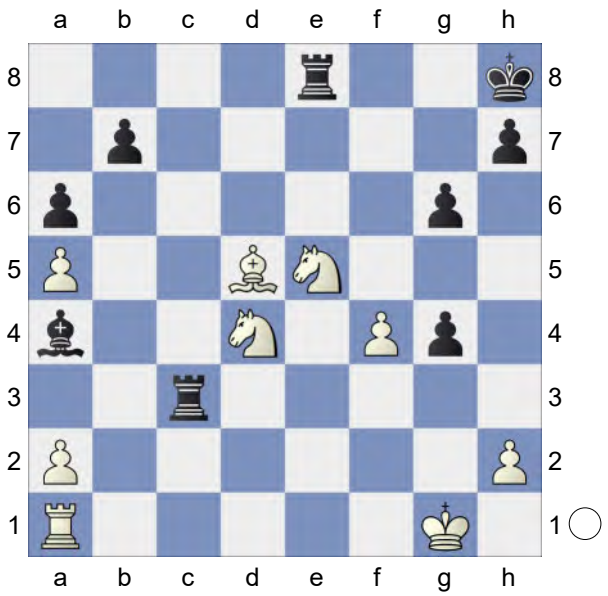


21.Qe5 Qxe5 22.Nxe5 Pair of Knights!
22...Ba4 23.Bf5
0x0.0021694cb1bfdp-1022s more active pieces. **23...Rfe8 24.f4 g6 25.Bh3 f6**

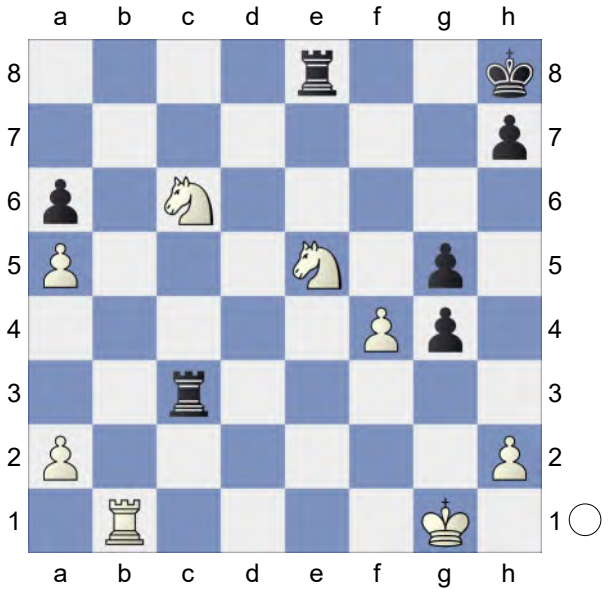


26.Nef3 f5 27.Ne5 Rac8 28.g4 Rc3 29.Bg2 fxg4 30.Bxd5+ Kh8

(Diagram)

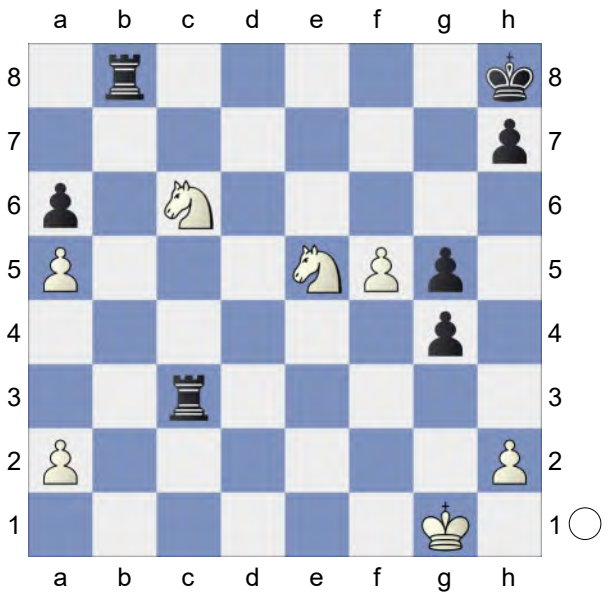


31.Rb1 Bc6 32.Bxc6
[Don't do 32.Ndxc6?! bxc6 33.Bf7 *(33.Nxc6 Rc5±; 33.Bxc6 Rxe5 34.fxe5 Rxc6±)* 33...Rf8±]
32...bxc6 33.Ndxc6 aiming for Rb7.
33...g5? 4.55/22
[33...Re3± 1.42/20 is tougher. 34.Rb6 Ra8]

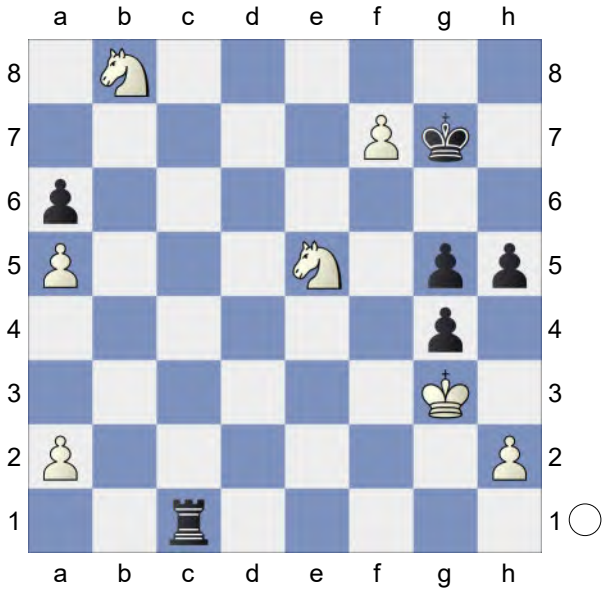


This costs Black the game. **34.f5!+- Rf8 35.Rb8 Rxb8**

(Diagram)

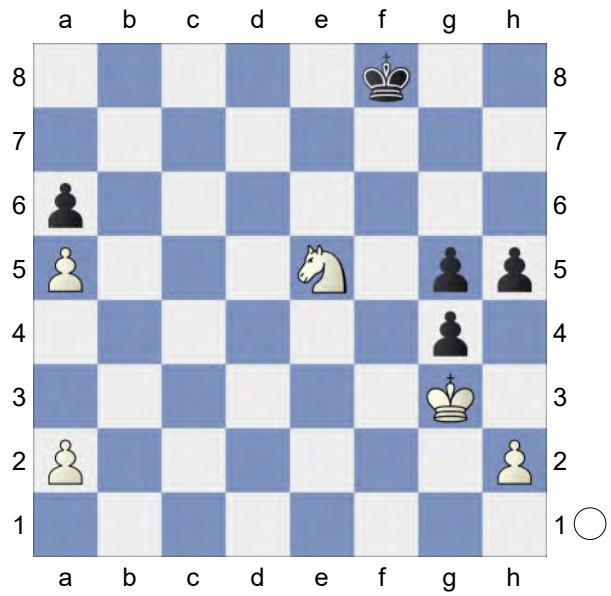


36.Nxb8 Rc1+ 6.97/25
[⌓36...g3 4.83/25 37.f6 *(37.Nxa6 Rc1+ 38.Kg2 gxh2±)* 37...Rc1+ 38.Kg2 gxh2 39.Kxh2 Kg8 40.Nxa6 Re1]
37.Kf2 Rc2+ 38.Kg3 h5 39.f6 Rc1? 12.70/29
[39...Rxa2 3.74/21 40.f7 Kg7]
40.f7 White is clearly winning. **40...Kg7**

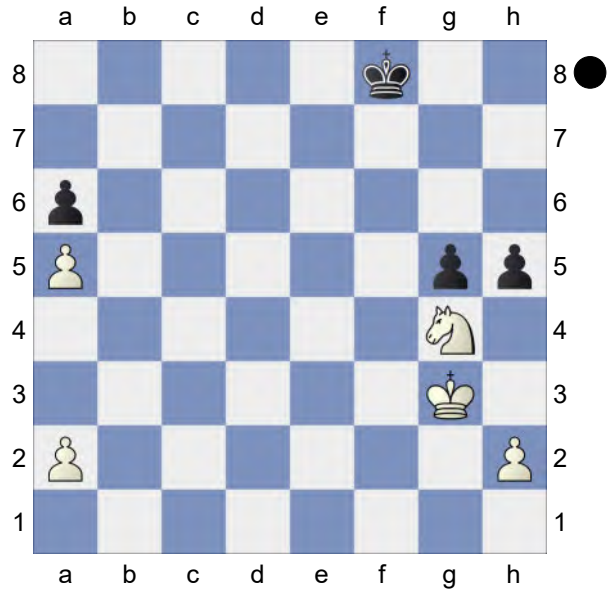


41.Nbd7 Rf1 42.f8Q+ Rxf8 43.Nxf8 Kxf8

(Diagram)



44.Nxg4!



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.29 (precise)

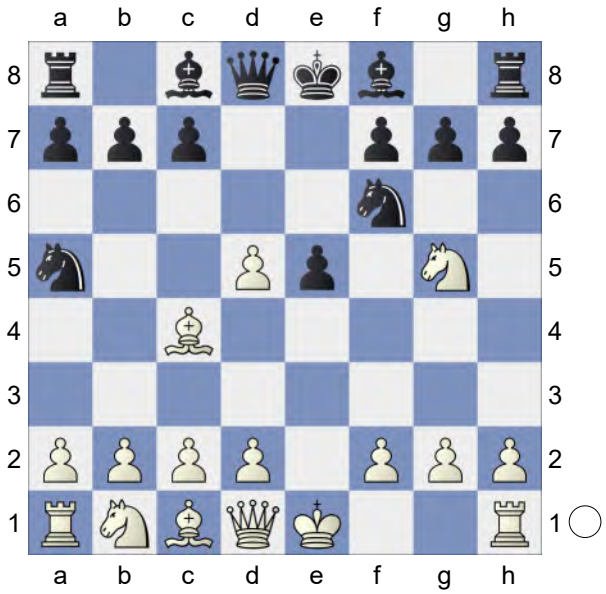
1-0

8 **C58**
□ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
■ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
Tata Steel Challengers (2.1) 19.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C58: Two Knights: 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5 Na5 sidelines **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5N**

[4.d3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 *(6.Bxd5 Qxd5 7.h3 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 0-0 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Nc3 Qe6 11.Re1 f6 12.Ne2 f5 13.Nf4 Qf7 14.Ng5 Qf6 15.Nd5 Qg6 16.h4 f4 17.d4 exd4 18.Qf3 h6 19.Nh3 Bxh3 20.Qxh3 Qxc2* 7.e3 Bd7 8.Nc3_57741-Witt,R USSR 5/351 1913 200 Traps In The Opening [John Watson] 0-1*)* 6...Nb6 *(6...Bg4 7.Re1 Qd6 8.h3 Bh5 9.Nbd2 0-0-0 10.Ne4 Qd7 11.Ng3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nd4 13.Qd1 Nb6 14.Rxe5 Bd6 15.Re1 Bxg3 16.fxg3 Nxc4 17.dxc4 Qf5 18.Rf1 Qe4 19.Qg4+ Qxg4 20.hxg4 Nxc2 21.Rb1* Lamping,M (2485)-9 Be2 NOT 9...Bb7 (2425) Poikovsky RUS 1998 MBM: The Réti [Mueller] 1-0 (53) *; 6...Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.h3 Nb6 9.Bb3 Bf5 10.d4 a5 11.a4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Qxd4 13.Qf3 Bd7 14.Nc3 0-0-0 15.Be3 Qb4 16.Bd5 c6 17.Bb3 Na8 18.Rad1 g5 19.Ne4 Rhf8 20.Re2* 4 2) Italian 3...Nf6 - Daring d-Italian 3...Nf6 - Daring d5*)* 7.Bb5 Bd6 8.Re1 f6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.h3 Bd7 11.Na4 Na5 12.Nxb6 axb6 13.Bxd7 Qxd7 14.d4 exd4 15.Qxd4 Qc6 16.Bf4 Rad8 17.Bxd6 Rxd6 18.Qg4 Qd7 Sedykh,M (2433)-3.c3 Nf6_25966 (2271) Tromso 2023 Chess Today CT-733 [John Watson] 0-1 (46)]

4...d5 5.exd5 Na5

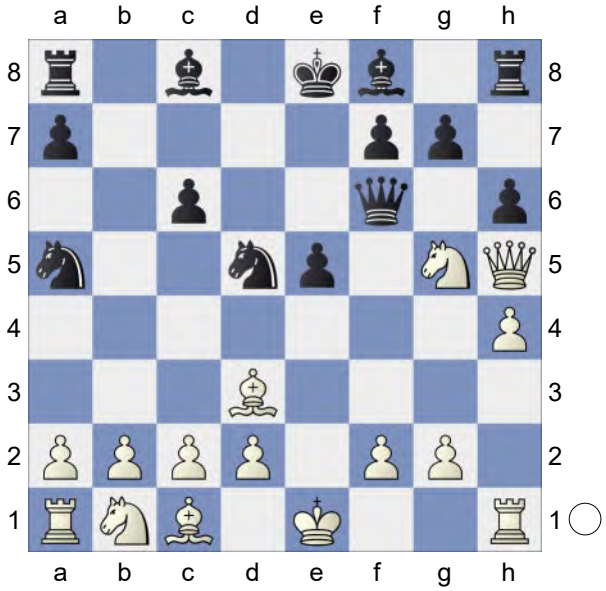


6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3

The position is equal. **8...Nd5 9.h4**

[Stronger than 9.Qh5 g6 10.Nxf7 gxh5∓]

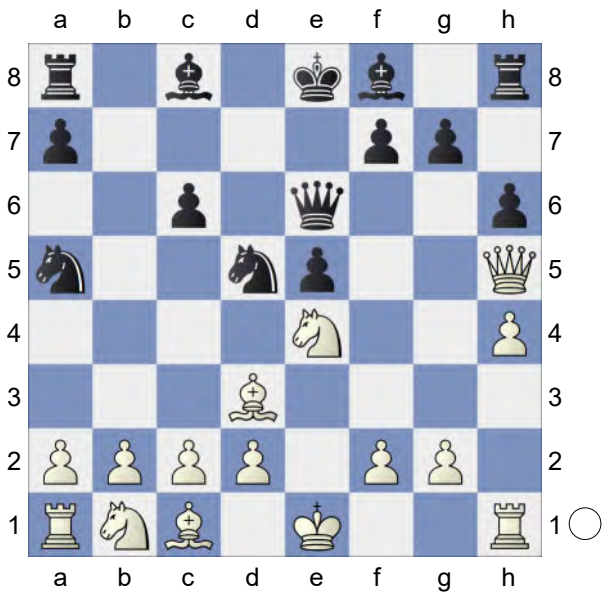
9...h6 10.Qh5 Qf6



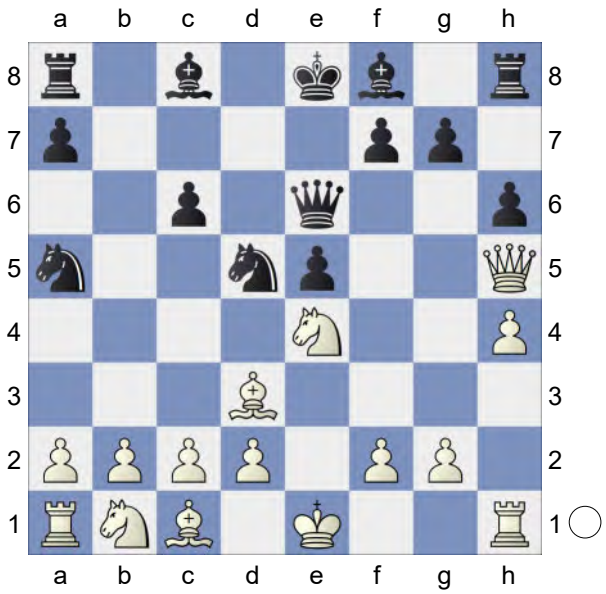
Strongly threatening ...Nf4. **11.Ne4⇄**

White is not holding back **11...Qe6**

(Diagram)



12.Ng5! Qf6 Threatens to win with ... Nf4. **13.Ne4 Qe6 14.Ng5 Qf6** White must now prevent ...Nf4. **15.Ne4 Qe6**

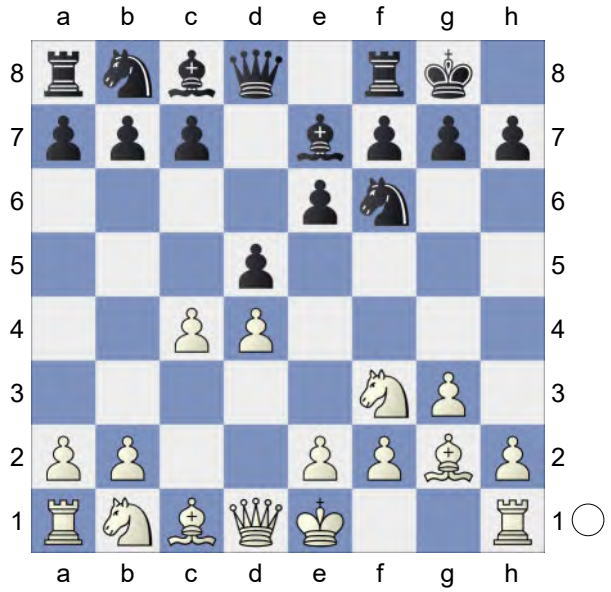


An even fight not without its subleties.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)
½-½

9 **E06**
□ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
■ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
Tata Steel Challengers (2.2) 19.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

E06: Closed Catalan: Early deviations

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0



6.Nc3 a5

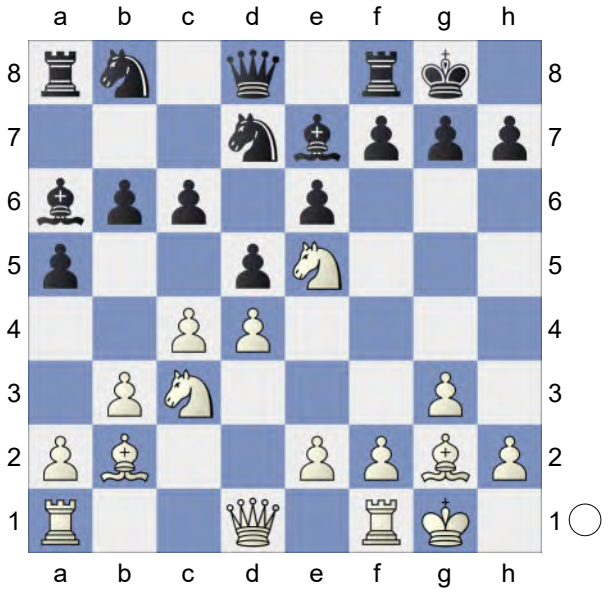
[6...dxc4 7.Ne5 c5 8.dxc5 Qxd1+ 9.Nxd1 Bxc5 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.Nxc4 Rd8 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Nxe3 Rb8 14.f4 e5 15.f5 Nd4 16.g4 b6 17.Rc1 Bb7 18.Bxb7 Rxb7 19.Kf2 h6 20.h4 g5 21.fxg6 Grube,J (2793)-11...Qc7 12.Nbd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2780) Fort Lauderdale 2016 200 Traps In The Opening [NiC YB\ 53-191 (Meulders)] ½-½]

[6...c6 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Qd3 dxc4 9.Qxc4 c5 10.Rd1 cxd4 11.Nxd4 a6 12.a3 h6 13.b4 Nb6 14.Qb3 Nfd5 15.Nxd5 exd5 16.Bb2 Bf6 17.e4 Bd7 18.a4 Bxd4 19.Bxd4 Be6 20.Bc5 Re8 21.exd5 Scholing,S (2235)-5...Qc7 6.Be2 b5 (1484) Deutschland 89/203 2023 Inf33 [John Watson] 1-0 (37)]

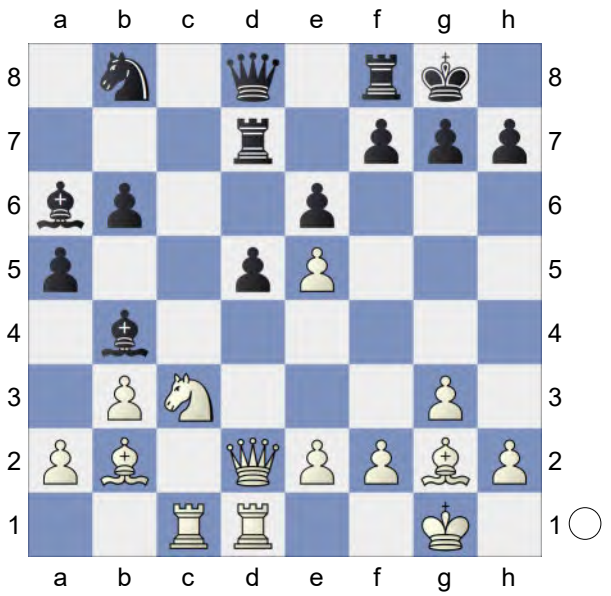
7.0-0 c6 8.b3 b6N

[8...Ne4 9.Bb2 Nxc3 10.Bxc3 Nd7 11.Qc2 b5 12.e4 bxc4 13.bxc4 Ba6 14.Nd2 dxc4 15.Rfd1 Qc7 16.Bf1 c5 17.d5 exd5 18.exd5 Ne5 19.Bxe5 Qxe5 20.Bxc4 Bc8 21.Bd3 E 06/12-N,N Survey 2008]

9.Ne5 Ba6 10.Bb2 Nfd7

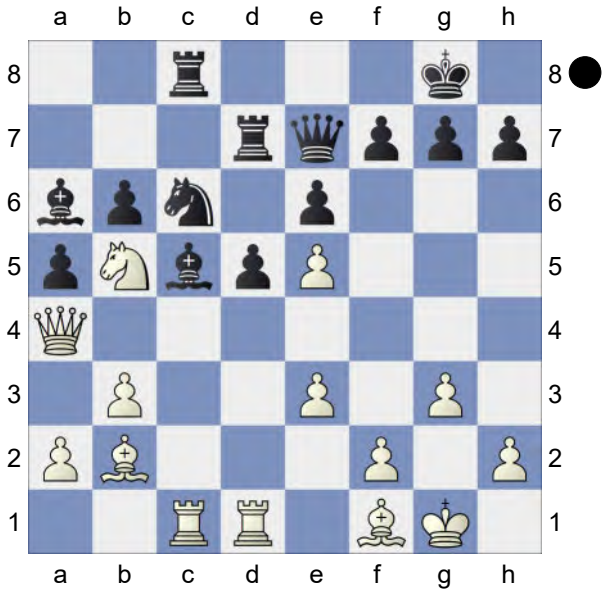


11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Rc1 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Ra7 14.Qd2 Rd7 15.Rfd1 Bb4

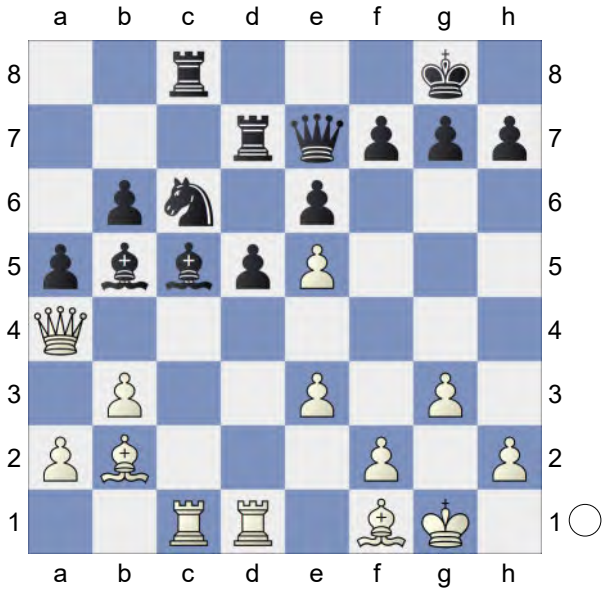


...d4 is the strong threat. **16.e3 Qe7**

17.Qd4 Bc5 18.Qa4 Rc8 19.Nb5 Nc6 20.Bf1

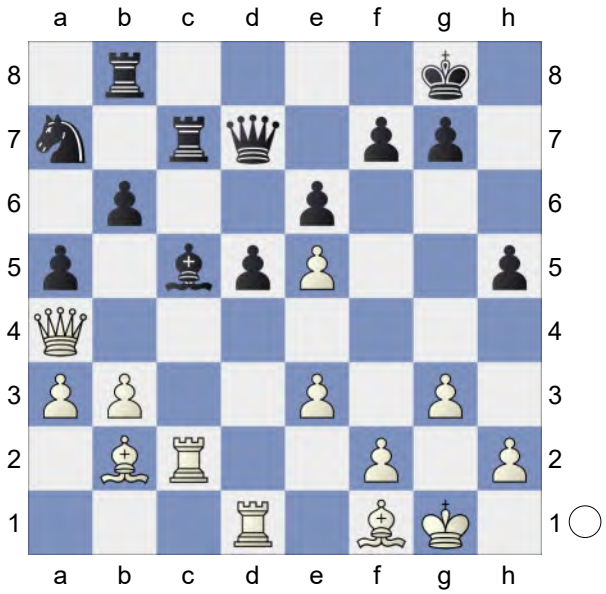


Black must now prevent Nd6! **20...Bxb5**



21.Bxb5 Rdc7 22.a3 Na7 23.Ba6 Rb8 24.Bf1 This bishop pair is nice. **24...h5 25.Rc2 Qd7**

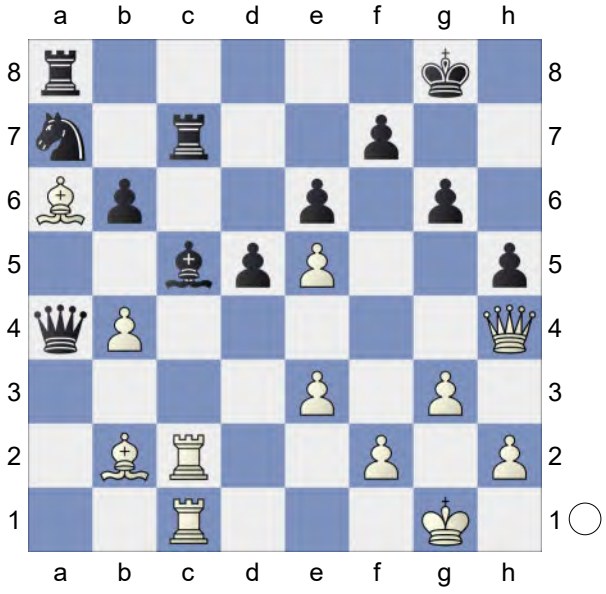
(Diagram)



26.Qh4 g6 27.Rdc1 Strongly threatening b4. &Bianco is more active. **27...Rbc8 28.Ba6 Ra8 29.b4** 0.04/20

[29.Be2± 0.49/21 feels stronger. Rcc8 30.Ba6]

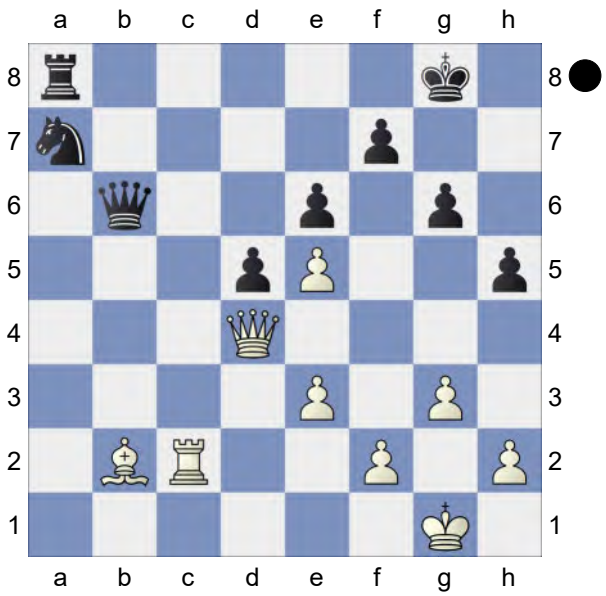
29...axb4= The position is equal. **30.axb4 Qa4!**



aiming for ...Be7. **31.bxc5 Qxa6 32.cxb6 Rxc2 33.Rxc2 Qxb6 34.Qd4** -0.36/23

[34.Qe7= -0.01/24 Nc6 35.Qd6]

(Diagram)

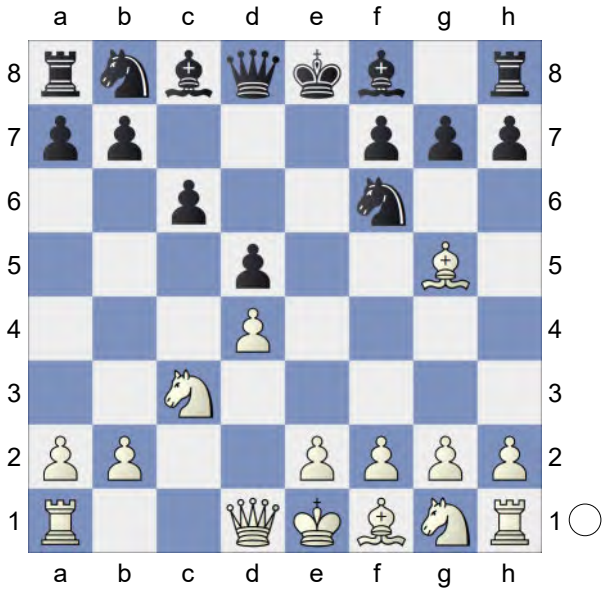


Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

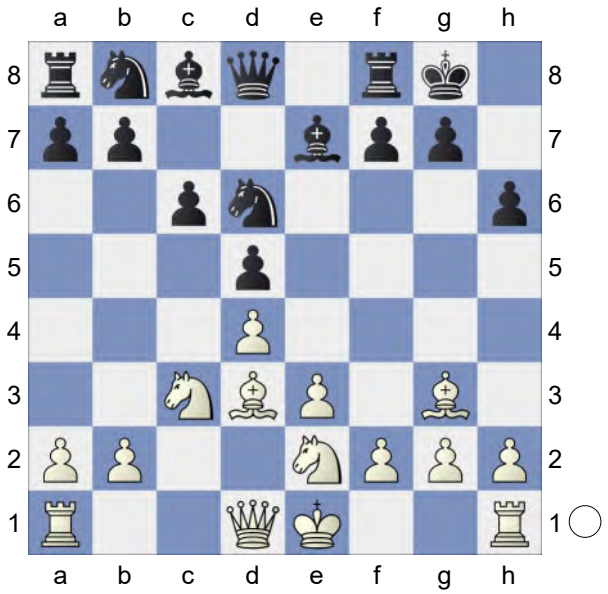
½-½

10 **D35**
□ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
■ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
Tata Steel Challengers (2.3) 19.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation **1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6**



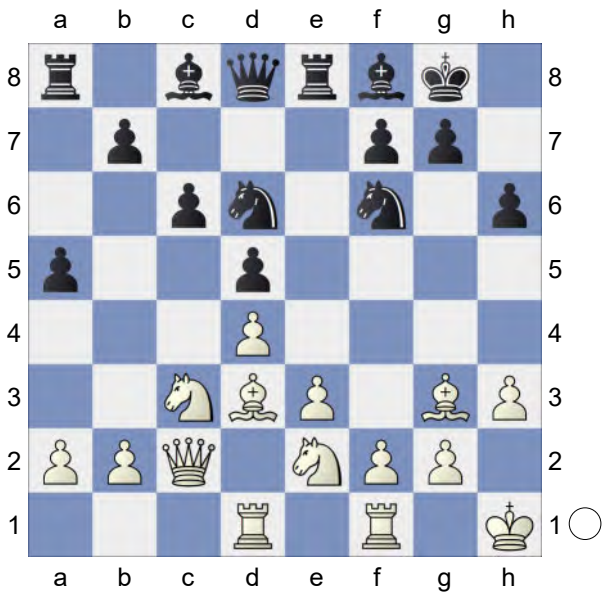
6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 Be7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Nge2 Ne8 10.Bg3 Nd6



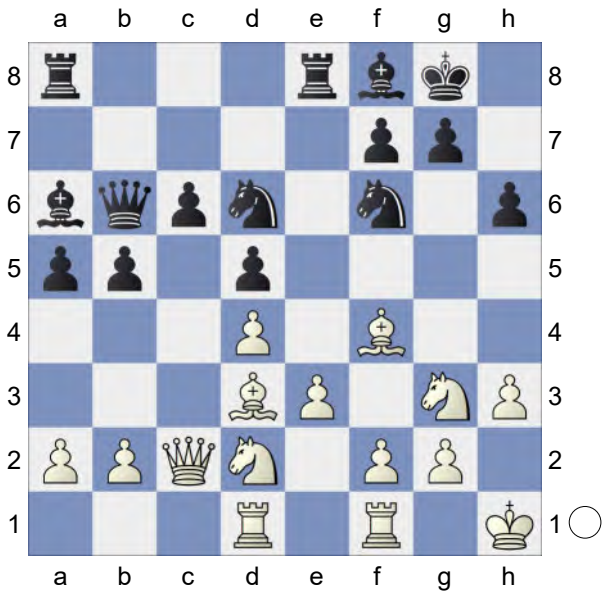
11.Qc2 The position is equal. **11...Re8**

12.0-0 a5
[12...Bf8 13.h3 *(13.Rae1 a5 14.Nc1 Na6 15.a3 b5 16.f3 b4 17.Na4 bxa3 18.bxa3 Bd7 19.Bxd6 Bxd6 20.Bxa6 Rxa6 21.Nc5 Ra7 22.e4 dxe4 23.fxe4 Be6 24.Nxe6 Rxe6 25.Rf3 Bxh2+ 26.Kf1 Qxd4 27.Qf2 Qxf2+* Swati,M (2026)-Flajsman,P (2188) Prague 2024 0-1 (58) *)* 13...a5 14.Kh1 Na6 15.a3 Nc7 16.Ng1 b5 17.Nf3 Nc4 18.a4 b4 19.Ne2 Ba6 20.Rac1 Ne6 21.Nf4 Nxf4 22.Bxf4 Bb7 23.b3 Nd6 24.Ne5 Rc8 25.Qe2 Ne4 26.Rc2 c5 27.dxc5 Eljanov,P (2672)-Urazayev,A (2466) Almaty KAZ 2024 1-0 (58)]
13.Rad1 Bf8 14.h3N
[14.Rfe1 Na6 15.a3 Bd7 16.Nc1 b5 17.e4 b4 18.Bxd6 Bxd6 19.e5 Bf8 20.Na4 bxa3 21.bxa3 Bxa3 22.Bxa6 Bxc1 23.Rxc1 Rxa6 5) Exchange Variation 4.cxd5-Exchange Variation 7. Bh4 - 9.]
[14.e4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Na6 17.Nf4 Nb4 18.Qb1 Nd5 19.Nxd5 cxd5 20.Bh7+ Kh8 21.Rfe1 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Bd7 5) Exchange Variation 4.cxd5-Exchange Variation 7. Bh4 - 9.]
14...Nd7 15.Kh1 Nf6

(Diagram)



16.Be5 Nd7 17.Bf4 Nf6 18.Ng3 b5 19.Nb1 Qb6 20.Nd2 Ba6



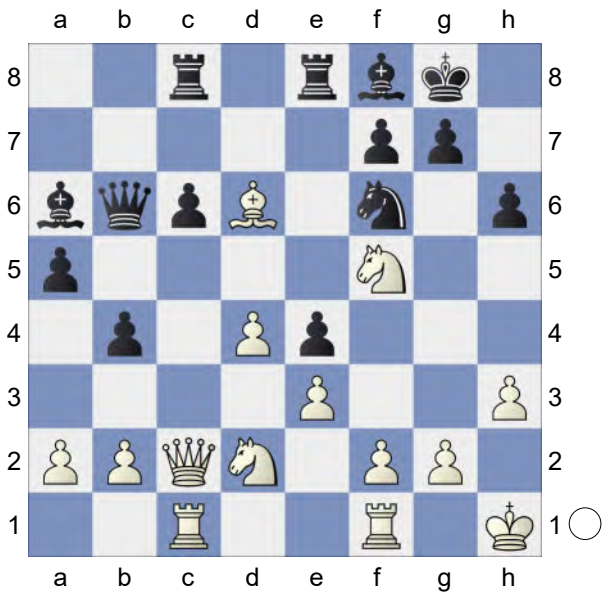
21.Rc1 Rac8 22.Nf5 Nde4 23.Bxe4 dxe4 0.77/21

[23...Nxe4= 0.24/23 remains equal. 24.Nxe4 Rxe4]

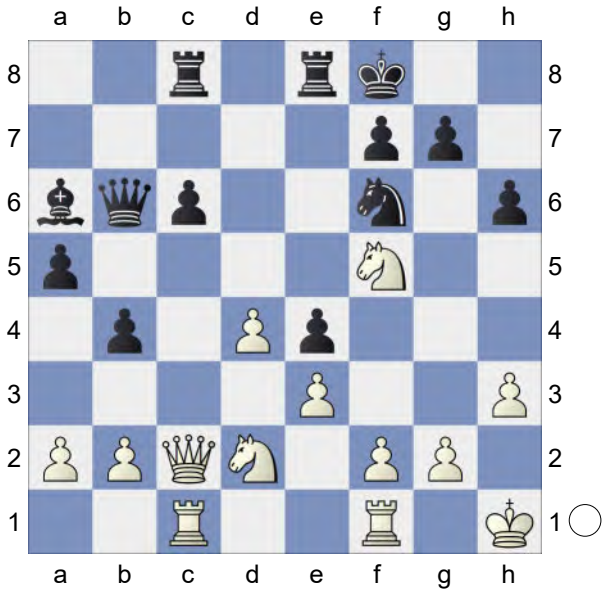
24.Bd6!± b4 1.62/21

[24...Re6!± 0.55/20]

(Diagram)



25.Bxf8!+- Kxf8



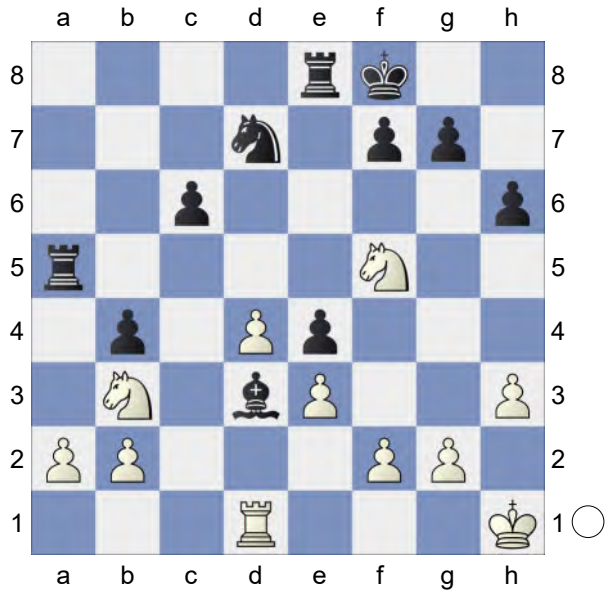
26.Rfd1 0.65/21

[26.Nd6± 1.27/22]

26...Bd3± 27.Qc5+ Qxc5 28.Rxc5 And now Nd6 would win. **28...Nd7 29.Rxa5 Ra8** Inhibits Ra7. **30.Nb3 Rxa5** 1.06/23

[30...Reb8± 0.68/20]

(Diagram)

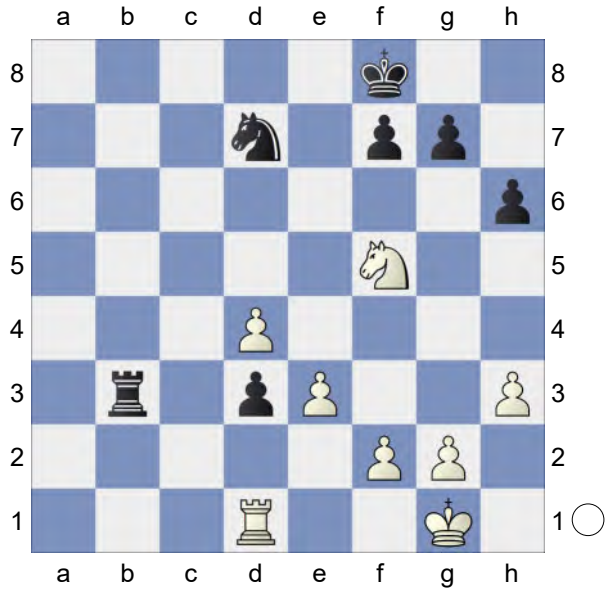


31.Nxa5± Ra8 32.Nxc6 Pair of Knights! **32...Rxa2 33.Nxb4** 1.13/22 &Bianco is more active.

[White should try 33.Rc1 1.44/22 Strongly threatening Ne5. Nb6 34.Ne5 *(34.Nxb4 Rxb2 35.Nd5 Rxf2=)*]

33...Rxb2 34.Nxd3 exd3

Endgame KRN-KRN **35.Kg1 Rb3**

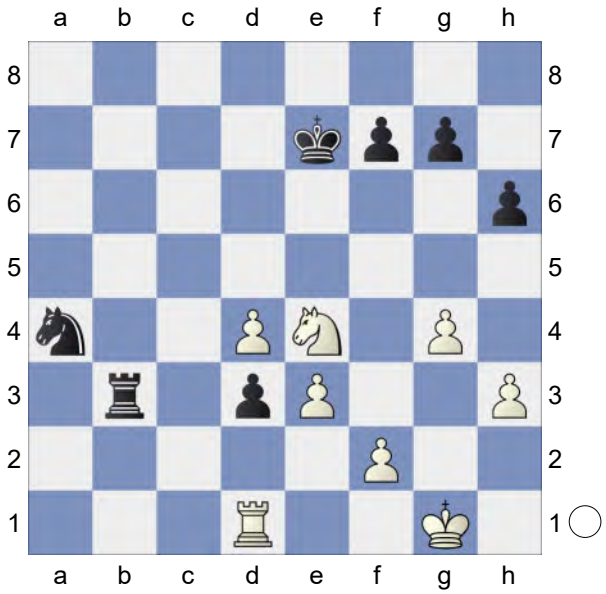


36.g4 Nb6 37.Nd6 1.07/21 Against Nc4

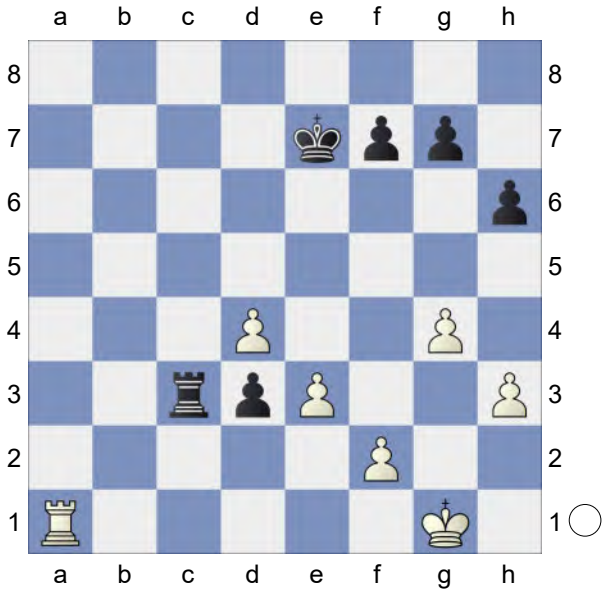
[⌓37.Ng3 1.39/22]

37...Na4 38.Ne4 Ke7 1.47/20

[⌓38...g6 0.94/20]



39.Ra1! Nc3 40.Nxc3 Rxc3



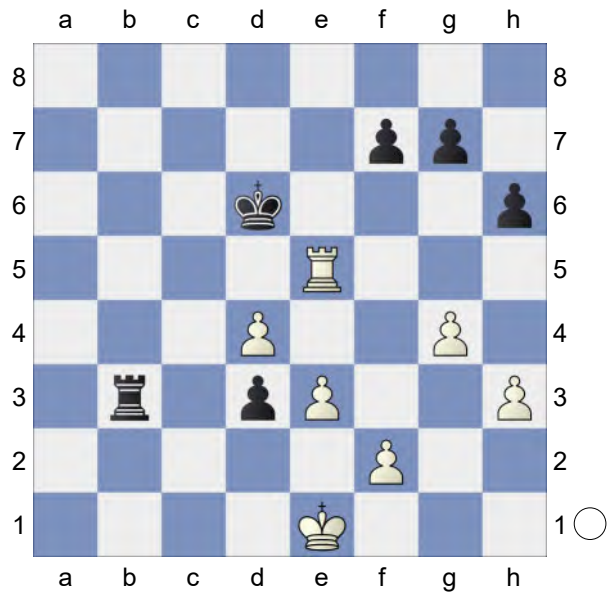
KR-KR **41.Kf1 Ke6 42.Ke1 Rb3 43.Ra6+ Kd5** 2.06/23

[43...Ke7 1.63/22 is a better defense. 44.Ra2 Rb1+ 45.Kd2 Rh1 46.Ra7+ *(46.Kxd3 Rxh3 47.Ra7+ Ke8+-)* 46...Ke8 47.Kxd3 Rxh3]

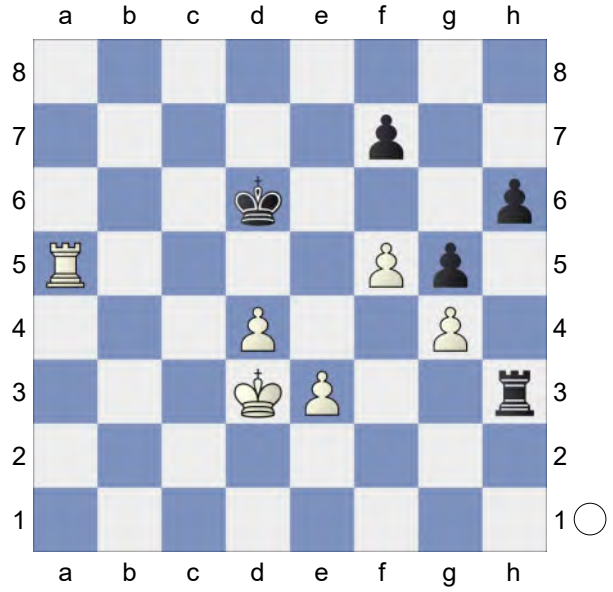
44.Ra5++- Ke6 45.Re5+ Kd6 2.37/23

[⌓45...Kd7 1.75/24 46.Rf5 Ke7]

(Diagram)

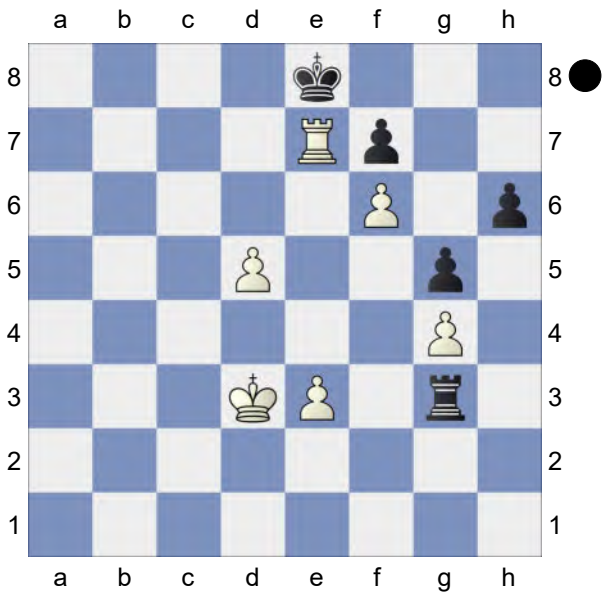


46.Kd2 g6 47.f4 Rb2+ 48.Kxd3 Rh2 49.f5 g5? 5.95/24
[49...Rxh3 2.72/21 is a better chance. 50.Rb5 Ke7 51.fxg6 fxg6]
50.Ra5 Rxh3



51.Ra6+ 2.77/22
[⌓51.Ra7 6.63/23 Rh4 52.Rxf7]
51...Ke7? 6.21/26
[51...Kd7 2.77/22 52.d5 Rh4]
52.d5 White is clearly winning. **52...Rg3 53.f6+ Kd7 54.Ra7+ Ke8 55.Re7+**

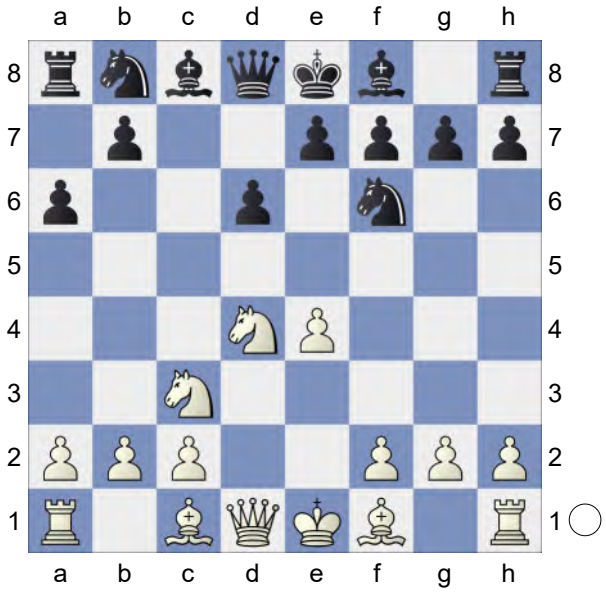
(Diagram)



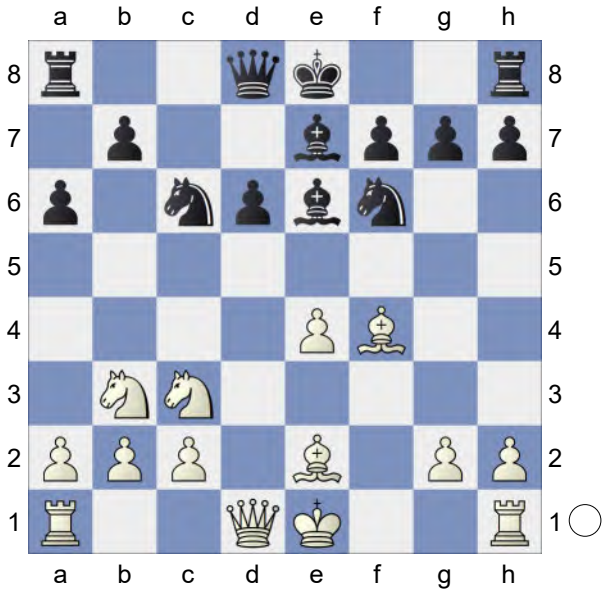
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.37
1-0

11 **B92**
□ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
■ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
Tata Steel Challengers (2.4) 19.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

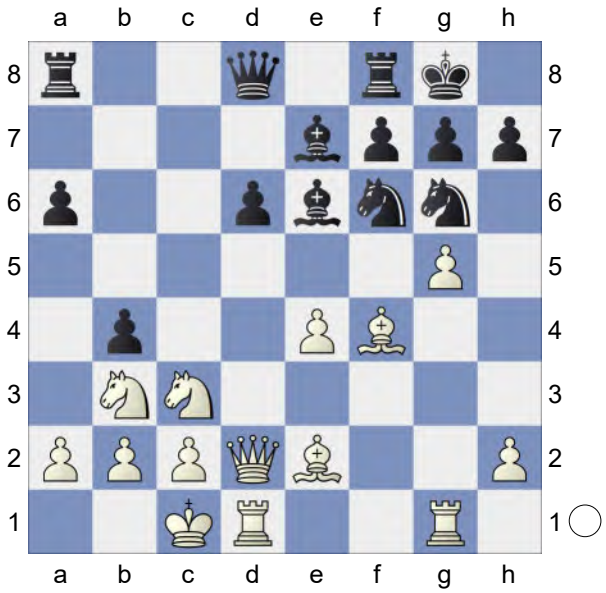
B92: Sicilian Najdorf: 6 Be2 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6**



6.Be2 e5
[6...e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.a4 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.f4 Qc7 11.Kh1 Re8 12.Bd3 Nb4 13.a5 Bd7 14.Nf3 Rac8 15.Bb6 Qb8 16.Bd4 Bc6 17.Qd2 Nxd3 18.cxd3 Nd7 19.Bg1 Qc7 20.Nd4 ½-½ (20) 10.Kb1 b5 11.c5_7382 (2795)-Buchicchio,G (2725) Paris 1995 Mega2023 Update 24 [BCM 8/1990]]
7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.f4N
[9.f3 h5 10.Qd2 Nbd7 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Bf5 13.0-0 Rc8 14.c4 Nc5 15.Nxc5 dxc5 16.Bd3 g6 17.Qe2 Qd6 18.Bd2 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 f5 20.Bc3 Kf7 21.Rfe1 Bf6 22.Kh1 Rce8 23.Re2 Re7 Sharevich,A (2026)-3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0-0 (2162) Mexico City 2022 CBM 72 ext [John Watson] 0-1 (54)]
9...exf4 10.Bxf4 Nc6

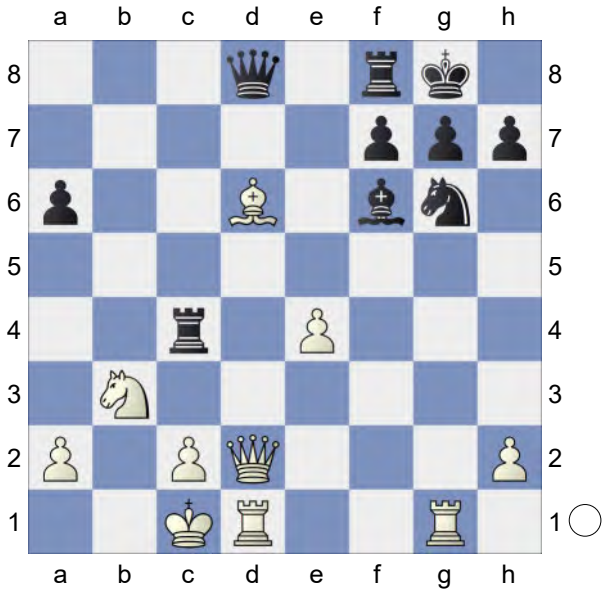


11.Qd2 0-0 12.0-0-0 Ne5 13.Rhg1 b5 14.g4 Ng6
[14...Nfxg4 15.Nd4 b4 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5±]
15.g5 b4!

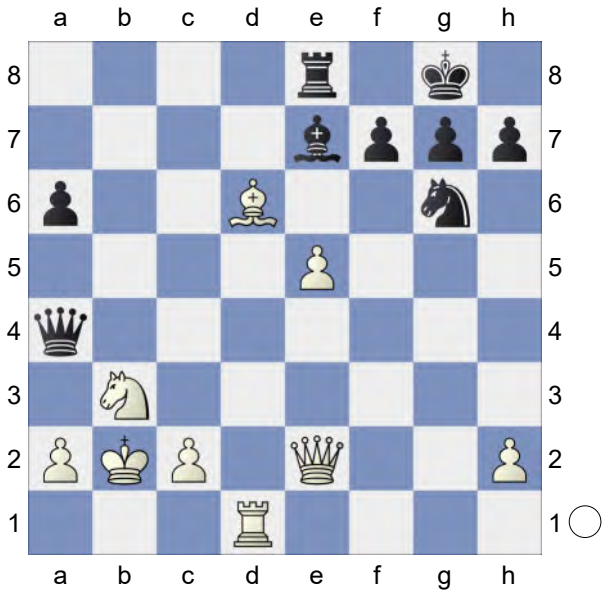


16.gxf6 bxc3 17.bxc3 Bxf6 18.Bxd6 Rc8 Against c4 **19.c4**
[19.Bxa6 Rc6 20.Bb5 *(20.Bxf8 Qxf8 21.Be2 Qa3+ 22.Kb1 Rxc3=)* 20...Bxc3±]

19...Bxc4 20.Bxc4
[Don't blunder 20.Bxf8? Qxf8 21.Kb1 Qa3-+]
20...Rxc4

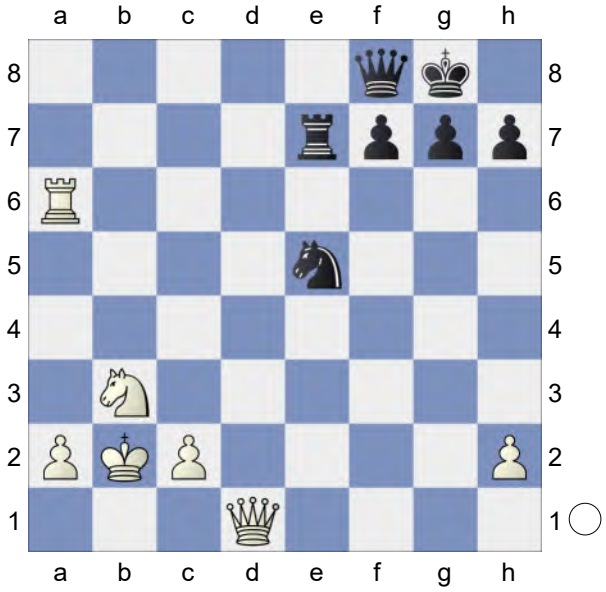


21.e5⇄ White is fighting back **21...Be7**
22.Qe2
[22.Qd3!? Ra4 23.Kb1=]
22...Ra4 23.Rg4 Qe8
[23...Rxa2? 24.Kb1+-]
24.Rxa4 Qxa4 25.Kb2 Re8



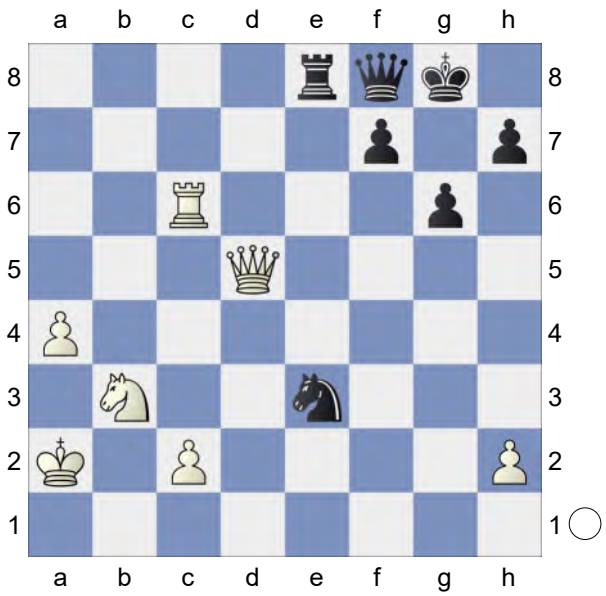
Hoping for ...Bf6! **26.Bxe7 Rxe7**
27.Rd4 Qc6 28.Rd6! Qe8
[28...Qxd6? 29.exd6 Rxe2 30.d7+-]

29.Qd1 -0.01/21
[29.e6± 0.38/20]
29...Qf8 The position is equal.
[29...Rxe5? 30.Rd8+-]
[29...Qb5 looks sharper. 30.Rd5 Qc6 31.Rd6 Qb5]
30.Rxa6 Nxe5



White must now prevent ...Nc4+. **31.Qd5** Inhibits Nc4+. **31...Re8!** Inhibits Ra8.
32.a4 g6
[Don't take 32...Qb4 33.Ra8 Rxa8 34.Qxa8+ Qf8 35.Qd5±]
33.Ka2 Ng4 34.Rc6 Ne3 0.53/20
[34...Nxh2= -0.01/19 35.a5 Ng4]

(Diagram)

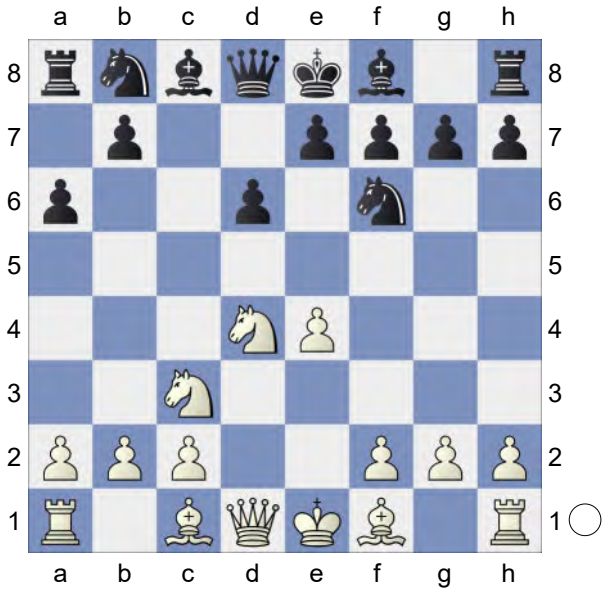


Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

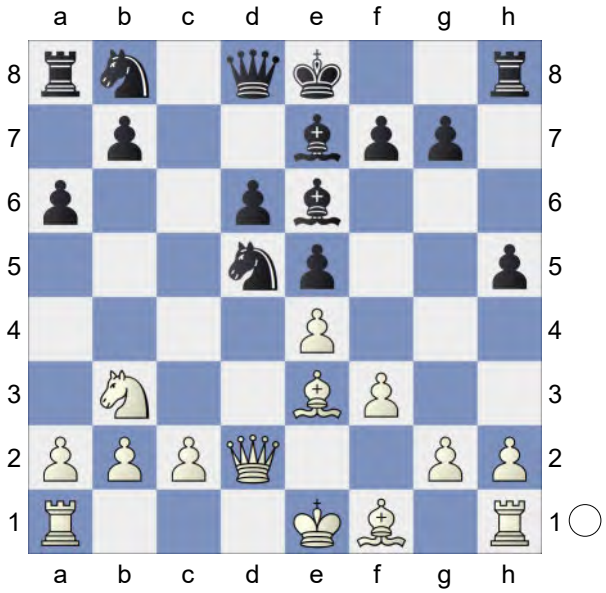
½-½

12 **B90**
□ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
■ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
Tata Steel Challengers (2.5) 19.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B90: Sicilian Najdorf: Unusual White 6th moves, 6 Be3 Ng4 and 6 Be3 e5 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6**

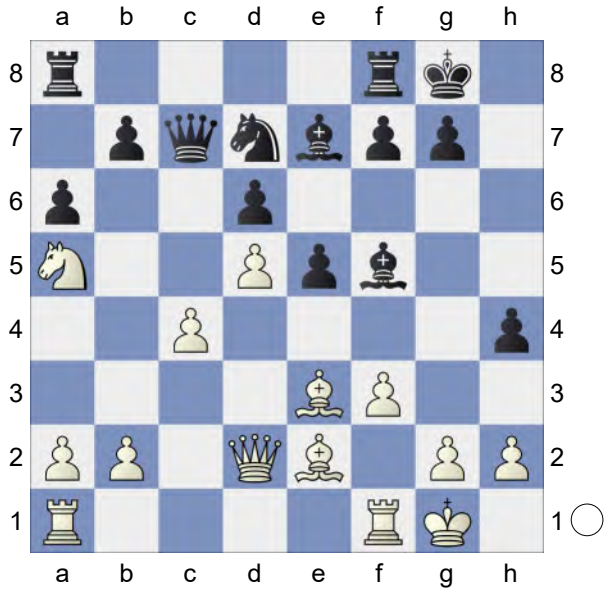


6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.f3 Be6 9.Qd2 h5 10.Nd5 Nxd5



11.exd5 Bf5 12.Be2 Nd7 13.0-0 0-0 White is slightly better. **14.Na5 Qc7 15.c4 h4**

[15...Bg6 16.b4 Rae8 17.Rac1 Bd8 18.Nb3 f5 19.c5 f4 20.Bf2 e4 21.fxe4 Bxe4 22.Nd4 Ritzen,A (2650)-Panov Botvinnik Attack (2732) Tallinn 2014 Telechess CBM 89 [Adly, Ahmed]]



16.b4 h3N

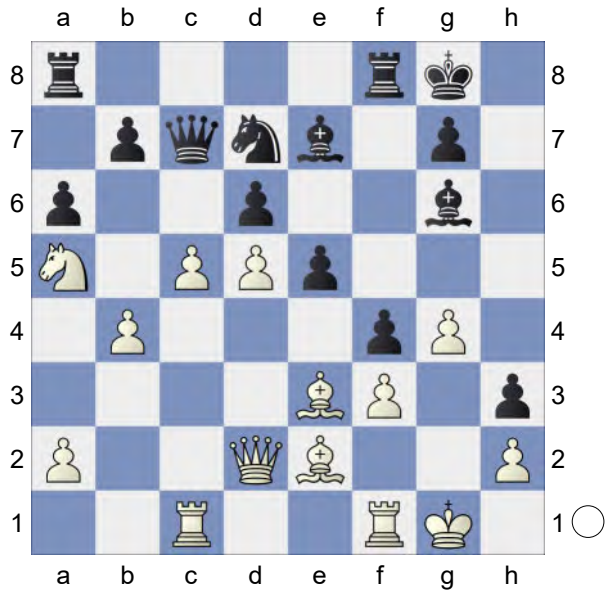
[16...Bg6 17.Rac1 Rad8 18.Rfd1 Nf6 19.Bf1 Bh5 20.Qf2 Qc8 21.Bb6 e4 22.Bxd8 Bxd8 The Centre Game Iii-Egreteau,E ICCF 2017 CBM 093 Extra [Lane, CCYB6]]

[16...Nf6 17.h3 Rfc8 18.Rfd1 Nh5 19.Rac1 Ng3 20.Re1 e4 21.c5 Nxe2+ 22.Rxe2 exf3 23.Rf2 dxc5 24.bxc5 Qd7 25.d6 b6 26.Nc4 Bd8 27.Rxf3 1-0 (27) Slawisches Gambit (2312)-9.Qf3 e6 10.b3 (2320) USSR 33/668 2010 CYB 12 [Marcinkiewicz]]

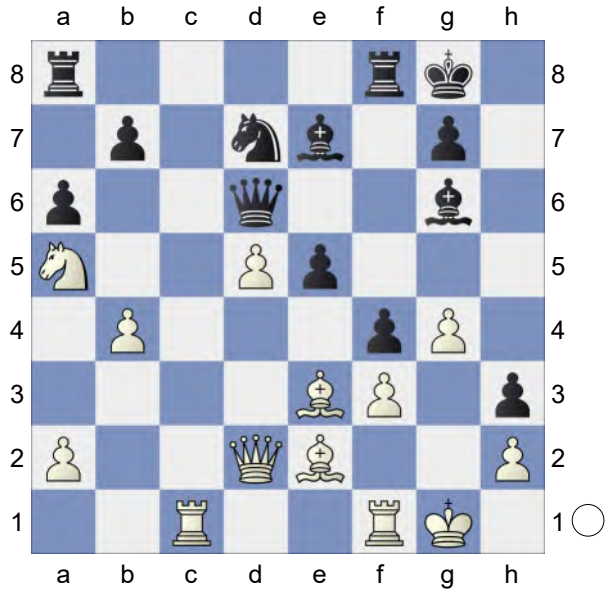
17.g4 Bg6 18.Rac1 f5 19.c5 &Bianco is more active. **19...f4** 2.35/19

[19...dxc5? 20.d6 Bxd6 21.Rcd1 *(21.Nxb7 Qxb7 22.Qxd6 Rf6=)*]

[19...Bd8± 1.33/19 was worth a try.]



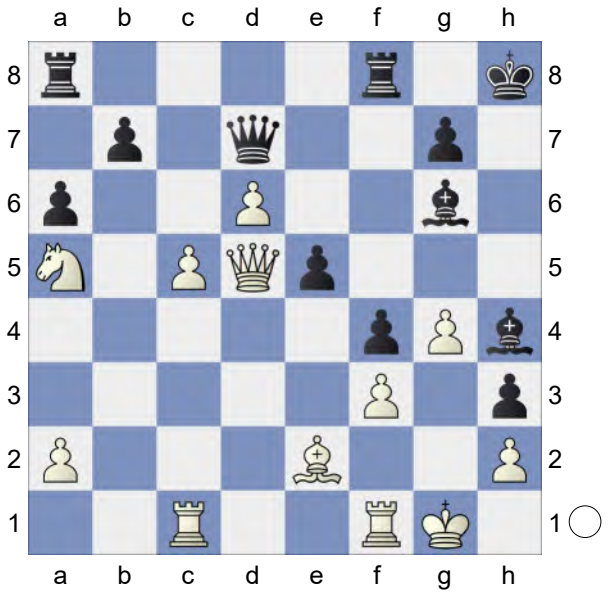
20.cxd6!+- Qxd6



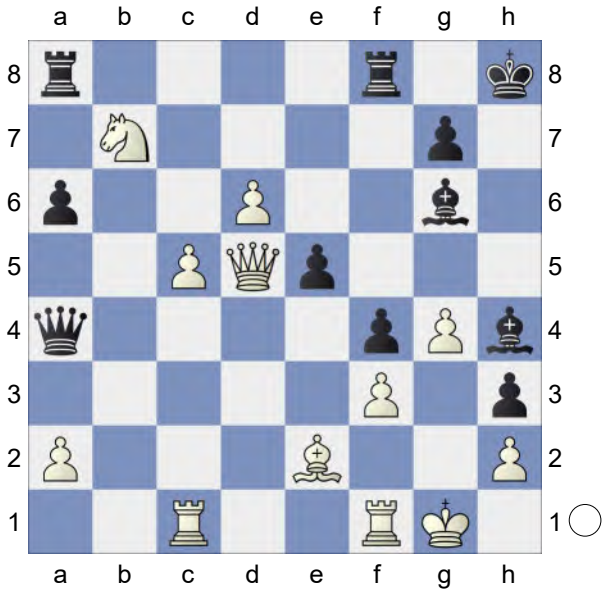
21.Bc5 Nxc5 22.bxc5 Qd7 23.d6 Strongly threatening Qd5+. **23...Bh4 24.Qd5+ Kh8?** 5.13/18

[24...Bf7 3.15/19 25.Qe4 *(25.Qxb7 Qa4±; 25.Qxe5 Rae8±)* 25...Rab8]

(Diagram)

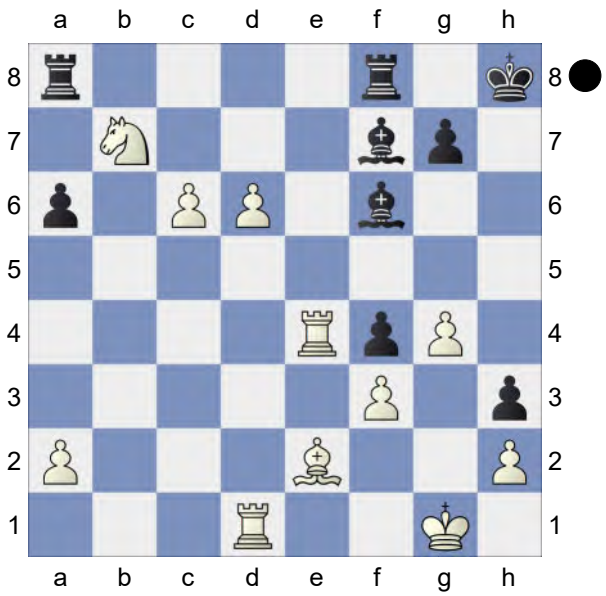


25.Nxb7 White is clearly winning.
25...Qa4



26.c6 e4 27.Qc4 Qxc4 28.Rxc4 Bf7 29.Rxe4 Bf6 30.Rd1

(Diagram)



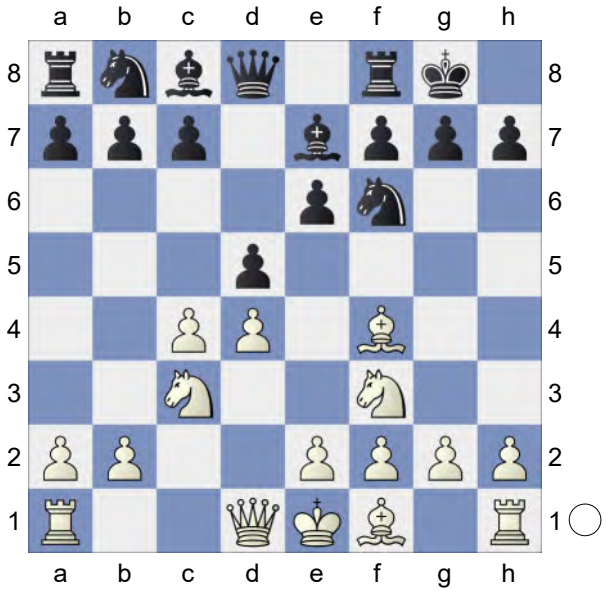
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.37

1-0

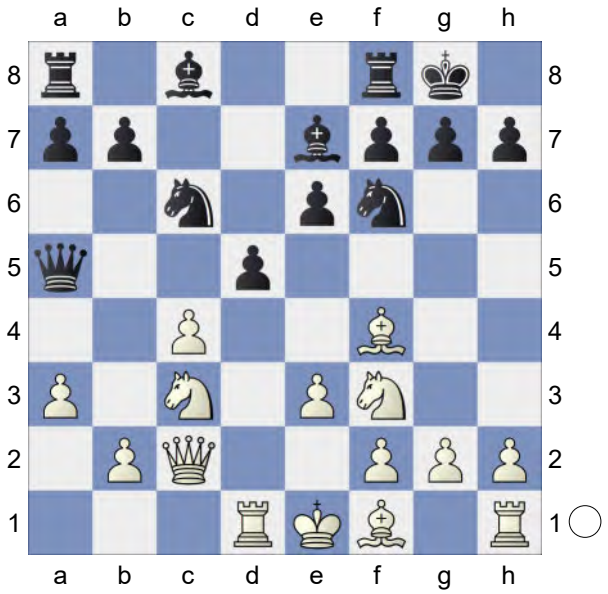
13 **D37**
□ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
■ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
Tata Steel Challengers (2.6) 19.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D37: Queen's Gambit Declined: 5 Bf4

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0



6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Qc2 Nc6 9.Rd1 Qa5 10.a3 Be7



11.Be2 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Bd7

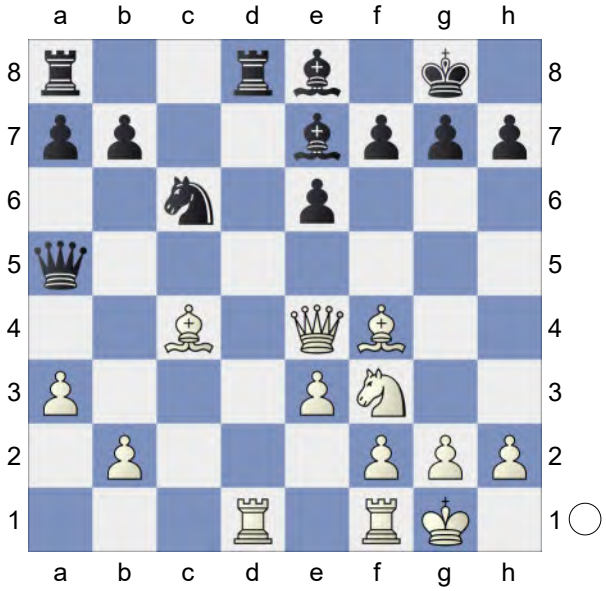
[12...Nh5 13.0-0 Nxf4 14.exf4 g6 15.g3 a6 16.Ne4 b5 17.Be2 Qb6 18.Qc3 f6 19.b4 a5 20.Rc1 Ra6 21.Nc5 axb4 22.axb4 Ra7 23.Qb3 Kf7 24.Rfe1 Rc7 25.Bf1 Nd8 26.Nd2 Bxc5 27.bxc5 Kaiser,W (2724)-4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 c6_3590 (2672) Moscow 2012 Telechess CBM 89 [Postsjakk 4/98] 1-0 (32)]

13.0-0 White is slightly better. **13...Rfd8**

14.Ne4N next b4 is good for White.

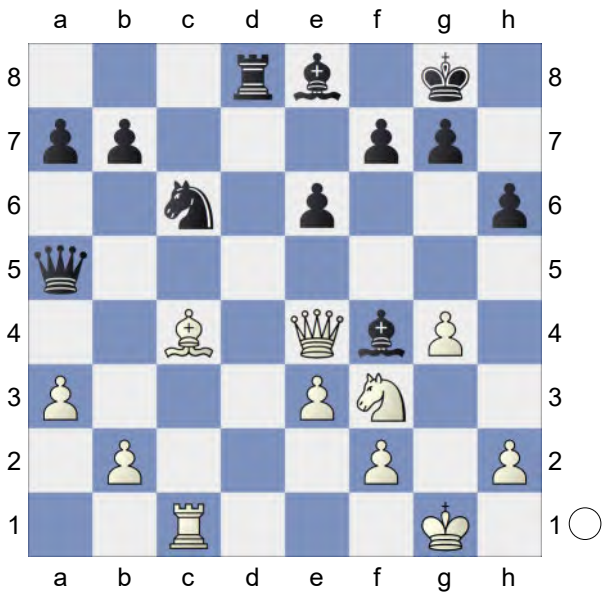
[14.Bd3 Rac8 15.h3 Be8 16.Qb3 Nd7 17.Bb1 Qb6 18.Qc2 Nf8 19.Bg5 f6 20.Bf4 Rxd1 21.Rxd1 Na5 22.Nd2 Bg6 23.e4 Bc5 24.Nf3 Nb3 25.Na4 Qb5 26.Nxc5 Rxc5 27.Qd3 Qxd3 28.Bxd3 Rc8 Makhnev,D (2551)-Dubov,D (2701) Almaty KAZ 2024 ½-½ (34)]

14...Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Be8



16.Qb1 Rxd1 17.Rxd1 Rd8 18.g4 h6 19.Rc1 Bd6 20.Qe4 Bxf4

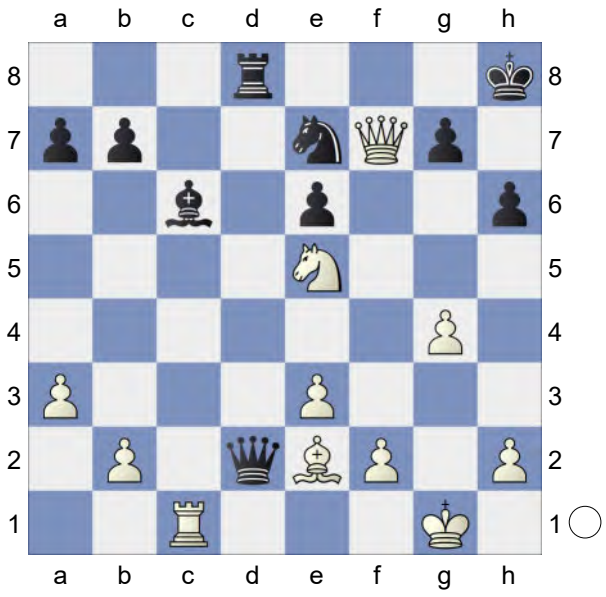
(Diagram)



21.Qxf4 Ne7 22.Be2 Bc6 23.Ne5 Qd2 0.92/24

[23...Be8= 0.01/23]

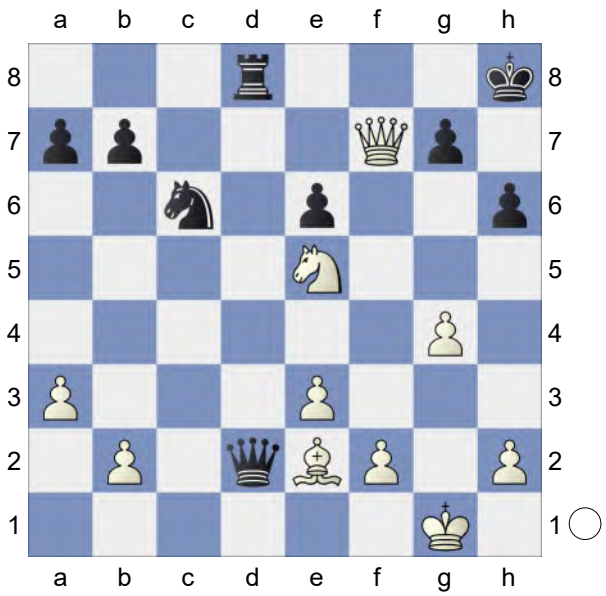
24.Qxf7+± Kh8



25.Rxc6 &Bianco is more active.

25...Nxc6

(Diagram)



26.Ng6+ Kh7 27.Nf4 0.35/24

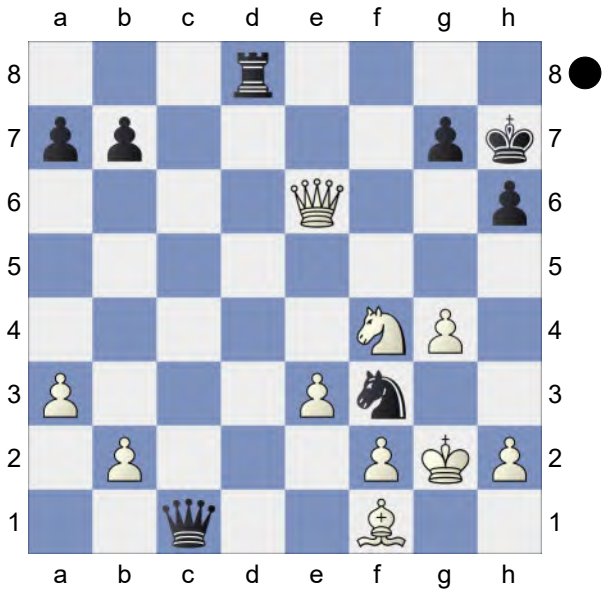
[White should try 27.Bf3± 0.74/24]

27...Ne5 28.Qxe6 -0.01/24

[28.Qxb7± 0.42/25 Qc1+ 29.Kg2 Qc6+ 30.Qxc6 Nxc6 31.Nxe6]

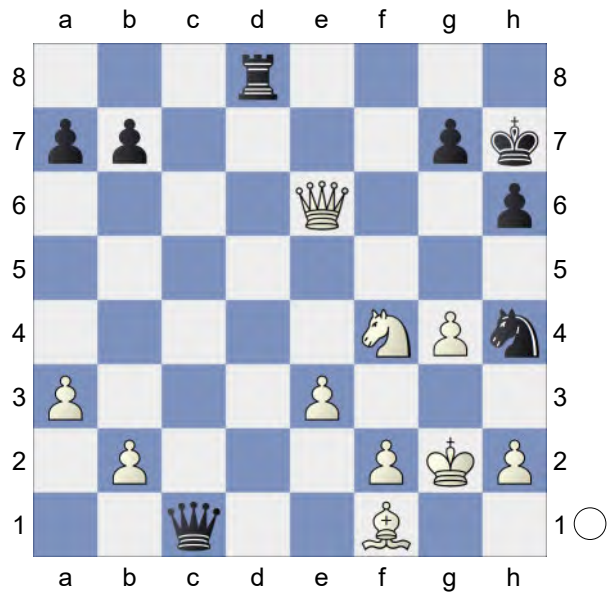
28...Qc1+= The position is equal.

29.Bf1! Nf3+ 30.Kg2

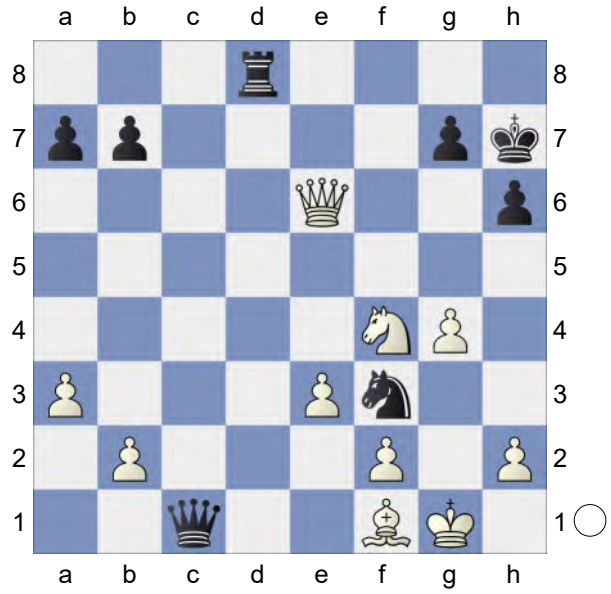


Black must now prevent Qe4+. Dancing on a razor blade. **30...Nh4+**

(Diagram)



31.Kg1 Nf3+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)

½-½

14 **B52**
□ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
■ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
Tata Steel Challengers (2.7) 19.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B52: Sicilian: Moscow Variation with 3...Bd7 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+N**

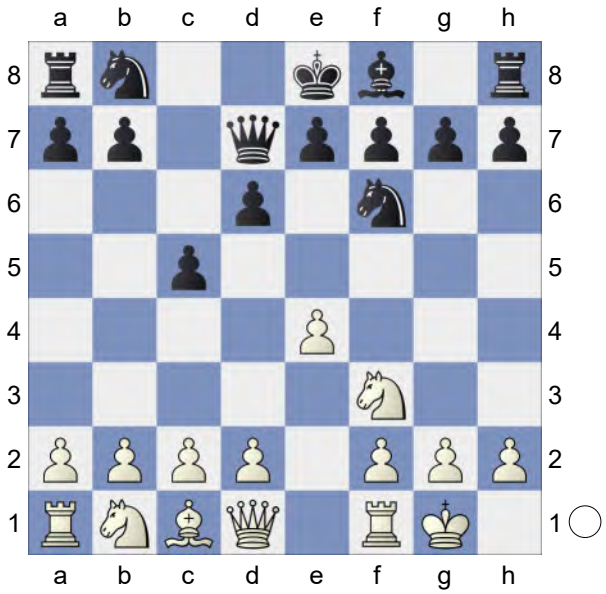
[3.d4 cxd4 4.c3 dxc3 *(4...Nf6 5.e5 dxe5 6.Nxe5 Nc6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.cxd4 e5 9.dxe5 Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 Ng4 11.Be3 Nxe3+ 12.fxe3 Bc5* Rare 3rd moves ----- for 2...-Rare 3rd moves ----- for 2...) 5.Nxc3 Nf6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Qe2 a6 9.Rd1 Qc7 10.Bf4 Nh5 11.Be3 Nc6 12.Rac1 Qb8 13.Bb3 Nf6 14.Na4 Nd7 15.Nb6 Nxb6 16.Bxb6 0-0 17.e5 dxe5 9.Bg5 a5 10.a4 Be6/12.K (1561)-Suchting Hugo (2033) Fagernes 2005 CCYB 4 [Dragan Solak] 0-1 (33)]

[3.g3 e5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.d3 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.c3 Nge7 8.a3 0-0 9.b4 h6 10.Nbd2 Be6 11.Nb3 c4 12.dxc4 Bxc4 13.Re1 Qc7 14.Nfd2 Be6 15.a4 a5 16.b5 Nb8 17.Ba3 Rd8 Sorensen,S (2188)-5... exd4 #8: 6...d5 (2413) Banjaluka 27/362 2022 ICCF 2019 [John Watson] ½-½ (39)]

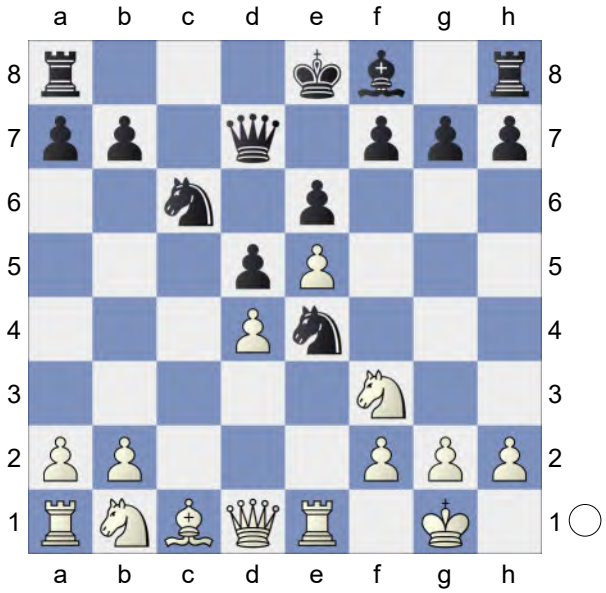
[3.c3 Nf6 4.Be2 Nc6 5.d4 g6 6.0-0 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.h3 a6 10.Be3 e6 11.Rc1 Bd7 12.a3 Rc8 13.b4 e5 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Qc2 Be6 16.Rfd1 Nd7 17.Bc5 Re8 6.Qc2 dc4 7.Bg5_52242 (1483)-Potkin, V (1417) Warsaw 2023 Inf 73 [John Watson] 1-0]

3...Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nf6

(Diagram)

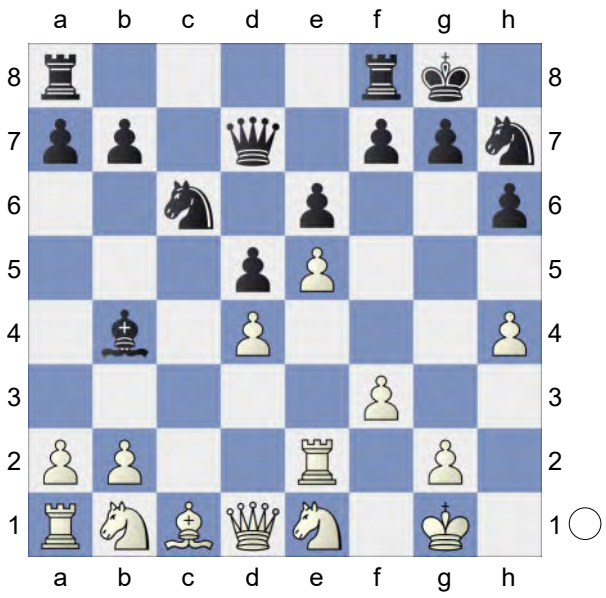


6.Re1 Nc6 7.c3 e6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.e5 Ne4

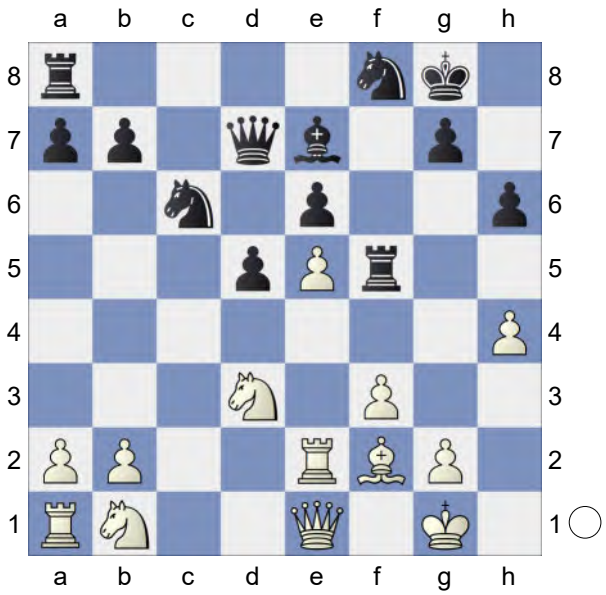


11.Re3 Bb4 12.Ne1 h6 13.f3 The position is equal. **13...Ng5 14.Re2 0-0 15.h4 Nh7**

(Diagram)

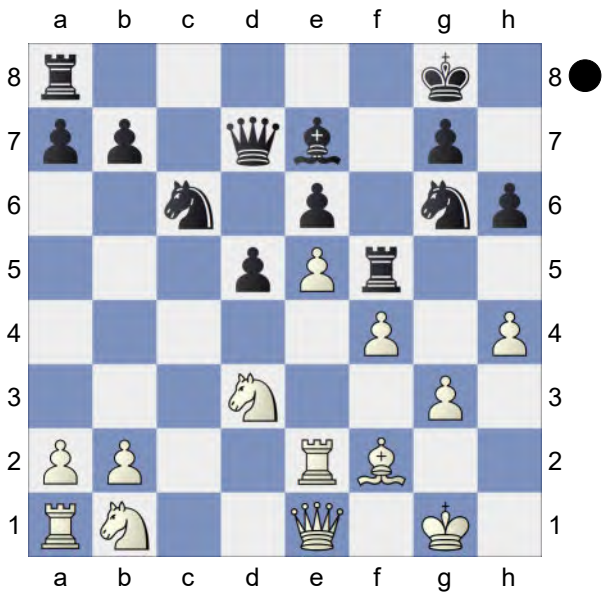


16.Be3! f6 17.Nd3 Be7 18.Qe1 fxe5 19.dxe5 Rf5 20.Bf2 Nf8

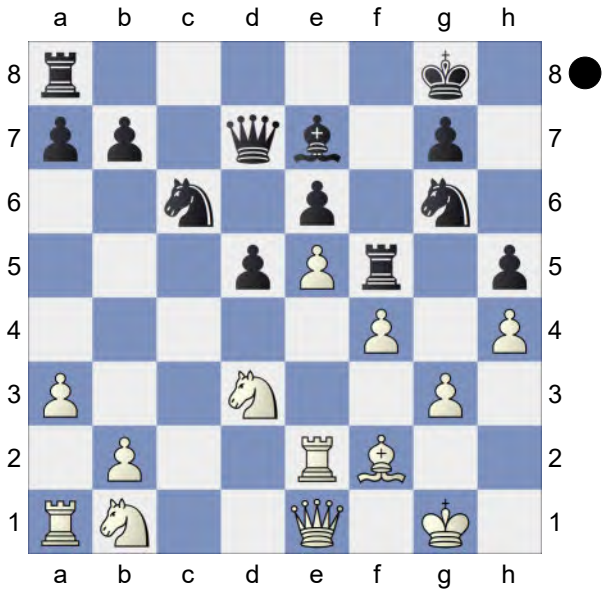


21.f4 -0.61/19
[21.Nd2= -0.26/18]
21...Ng6∓ 22.g3

(Diagram)

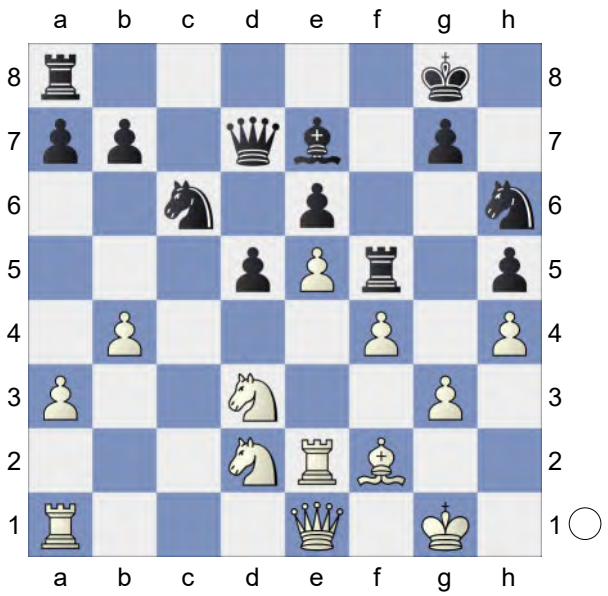


h5 -0.01/19
[22...Bxh4!∓ -0.48/19 is more appropriate. 23.gxh4 Nxf4 24.Nxf4 Rxf4]
23.a3 -0.44/21
[23.Nd2= -0.01/19 feels stronger.]



23...Nh8 0.58/19
[23...Bxh4!∓ -0.44/21 24.gxh4 Nxf4 25.Nxf4 Rxf4]
24.Nd2± Nf7 25.b4 Nh6

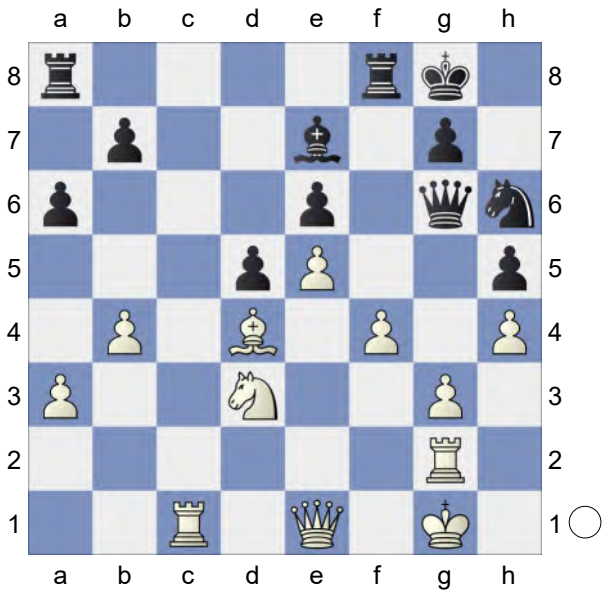
(Diagram)



26.Nb3 a6 27.Rc1 Qe8 28.Nd4 -0.19/21

[28.Ndc5± 0.49/17]

28...Nxd4= 29.Bxd4 Qg6 30.Rg2 Rff8



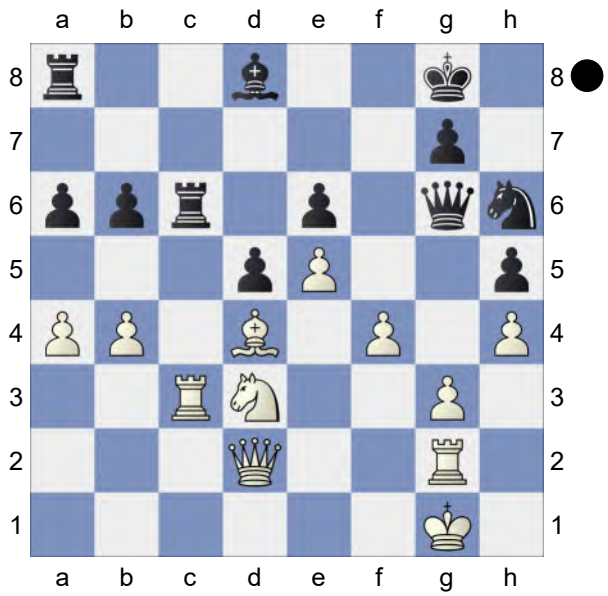
31.Qd2 Rfc8 32.Bc5 Bd8 33.Rc3 -1.00/20

[33.f5!∓ -0.39/19 Nxf5 34.Nf4]

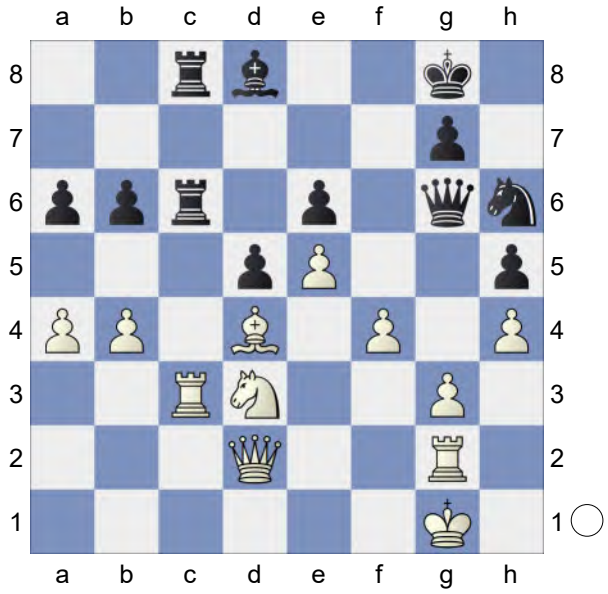
33...Rc6∓ White is now going downhill.

34.a4 b6 Against a5 **35.Bd4**

(Diagram)



Rac8



36.Rxc6 Rxc6 37.Kh1 Qe4 38.Bg1 Nf5 Strongly threatening ...Nxg3+.

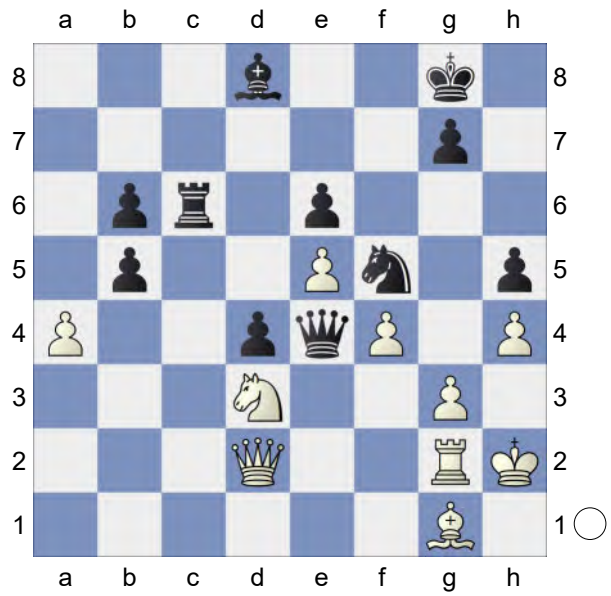
39.Kh2 d4 &Nero is more active. **40.b5** -2.28/23

[40.Qe2∓ -1.42/22 Qxe2 41.Rxe2]

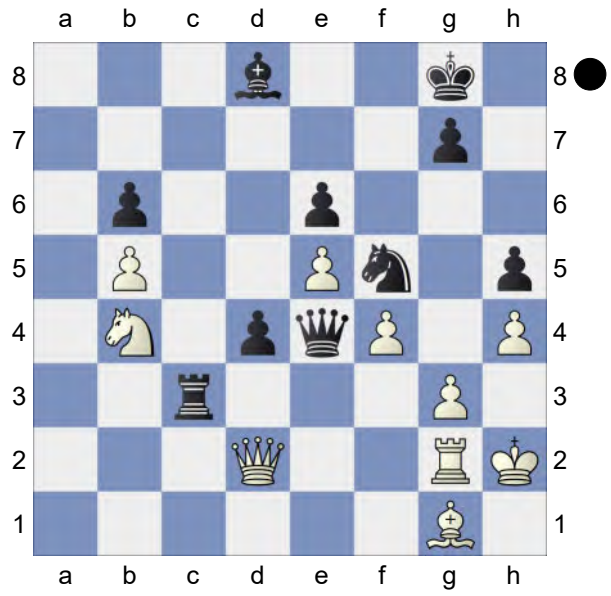
40...axb5-+

[Wrong is 40...Rc3? 41.Ne1 axb5 42.axb5]

(Diagram)

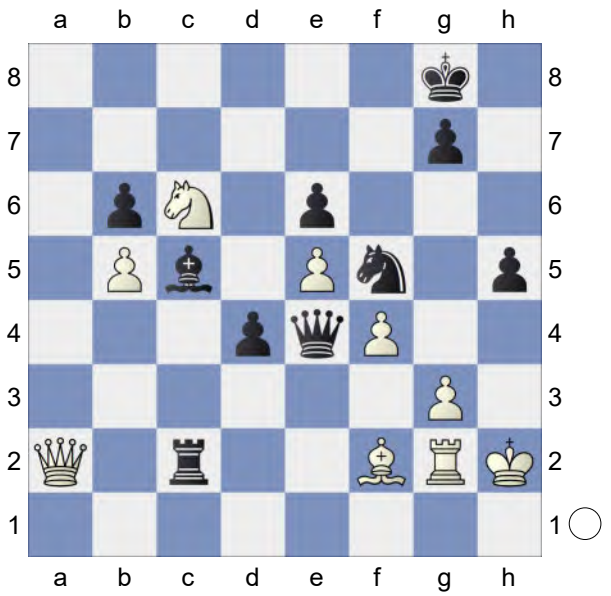


41.axb5 Rc3 42.Nb4? -5.19/23
[42.Ne1 -2.25/23]

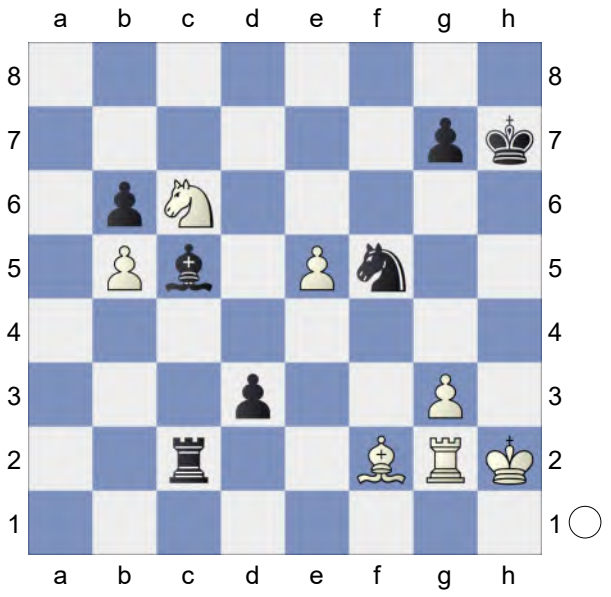


42...Bxh4! Black is clearly winning.
43.Bf2 Be7 44.Nc6 Bc5 ...Rc2 is the strong threat. **45.Qa2 Rc2**

(Diagram)

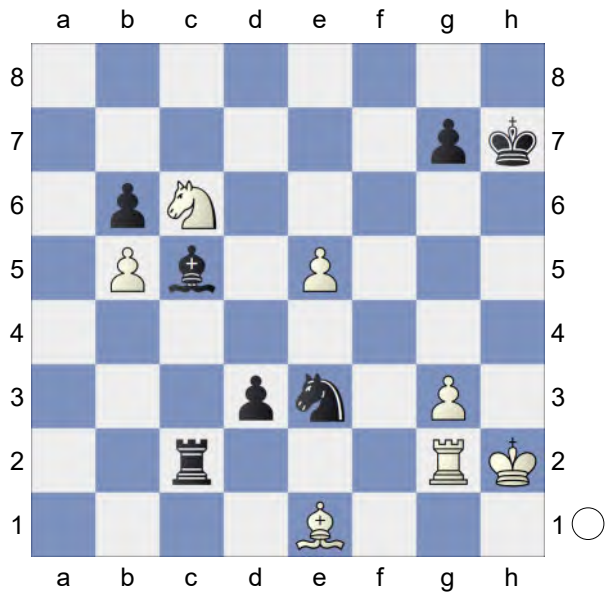


46.Qxe6+ Kh7 47.Qf7 d3
[Not 47...Kh6 48.Qg8=]
48.Qxh5+ Nh6 49.f5 Qxf5 50.Qxf5+ Nxf5



51.Be1 Ne3

(Diagram)

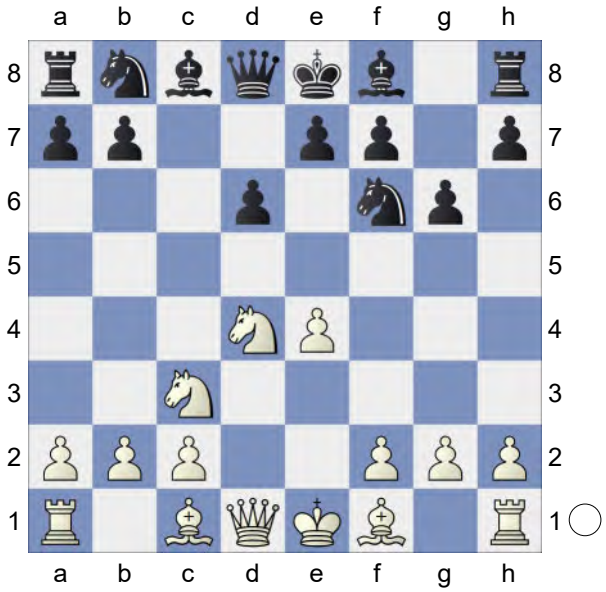


Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/ Black=0.11 (very precise)

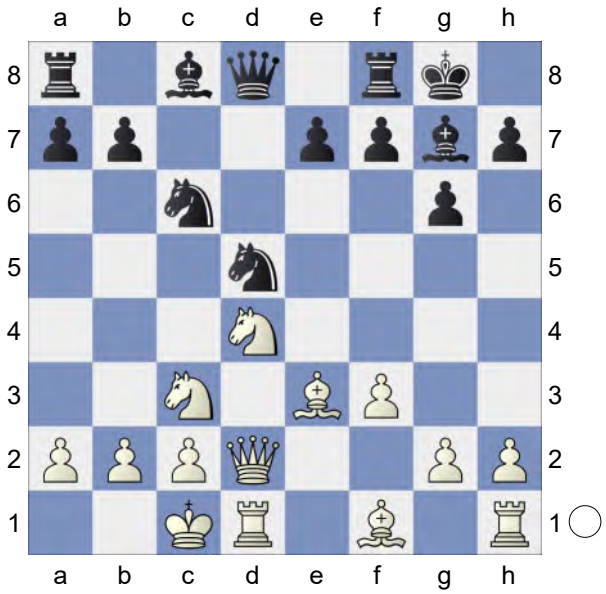
0-1

15 **B76**
□ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
■ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
Tata Steel Challengers (3.1) 20.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

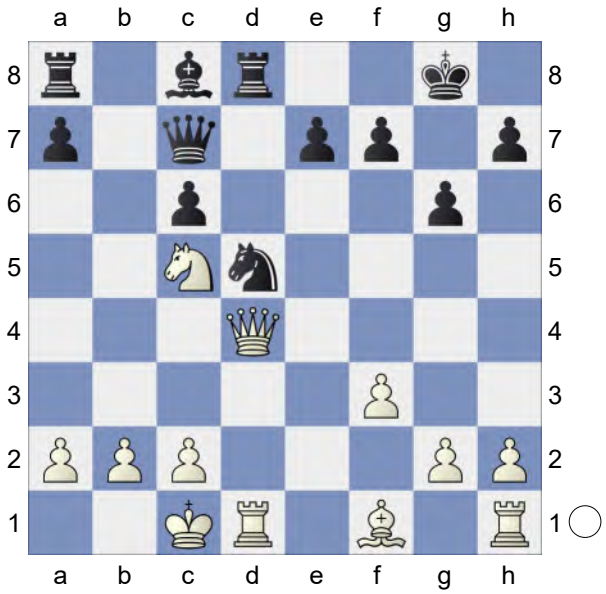
B76: Sicilian Dragon: Yugoslav Attack, 9 g4 and 9 0-0-0 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6**



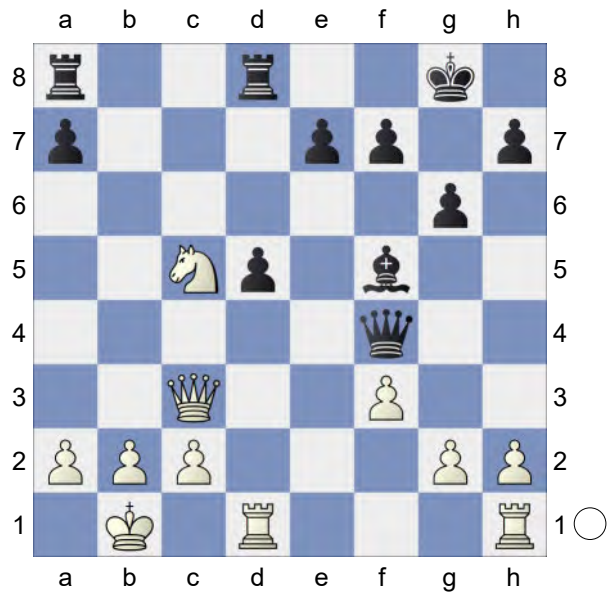
6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5



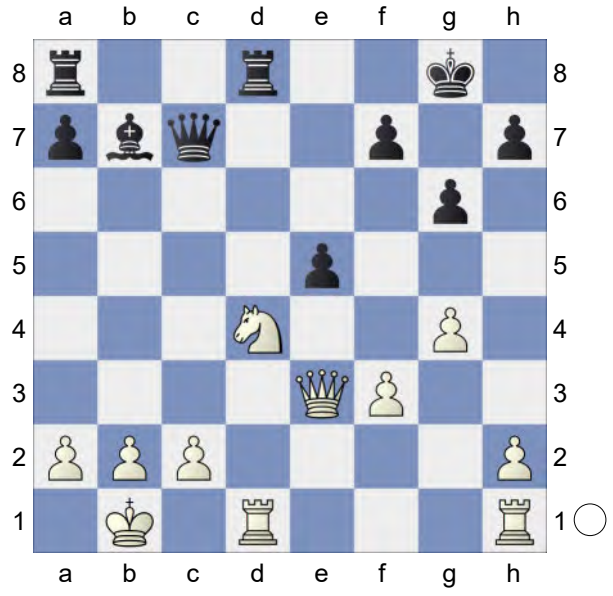
11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qb6 14.Na4 Qc7 15.Nc5 Rd8



16.Bc4 Bf5 White is slightly better.
17.Bb3! Nb6 18.Qc3 0.28/20
[18.Qe3± 0.59/19 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Qxh2 20.g4 Nd5 21.Qd4 e5 22.Qd2 Qxd2+ 23.Rxd2 Be6 24.Re2 Kg7 25.g5 Bf5 26.Bxd5 cxd5 27.Rxe5 Rd8 28.b4 Kf8 29.Kd2 Rd6 30.f4 f6 31.Re3 Rb6 32.a3 d4 33.Re1 Deslandes,P (2766)-6.Na3 cd4 7.cd4 Bd7 (2718) Moscow 2022 CBM 72 ext [John Watson] 0-1 (56)]
18...Qf4+N
[18...h5 19.g3 e6 *(19...Nd5 20.Qc4 e6 21.Rhe1 Qe7 22.Nd3 Nb6 23.Qc5 Rd6 24.Rd2 Nd7 25.Qc3 Bxd3 26.Rxd3 Rxd3 27.Qxd3 Nc5 28.Qc3 Rd8 29.a3 Qd6 30.Bc4 Na4 31.Qe3 Nb6 32.Be2 Qe7* ½-½ (32) Adams,M-Nakamura,H London 2017*)* 20.a3 Nd5 21.Qd4 Nb6 22.Qf2 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 25.Qe3 6) Dragon-6...Bg7 7.f3 O-O 8.Qd2 Nc6 9. Gori 2023]
19.Kb1 g4 is the strong threat. **19...Nd5!**
20.Bxd5 cxd5
(Diagram)

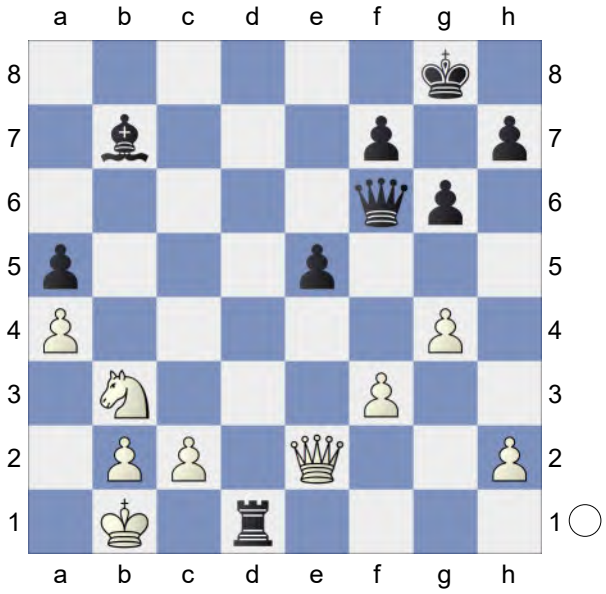


21.g4 d4 22.Qd2 Qc7 23.Nb3
[23.Na6 feels hotter. Qc4 24.gxf5 Qxa6 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.h4]
23...Bc8 24.Nxd4 Black must now prevent Nb5. **24...Bb7** aiming for ... Bxf3! **25.Qe3 e5** 0.33/22
[25...Rac8= 0.01/20 26.c3 *(26.Rhe1 e5=)* 26...e5]

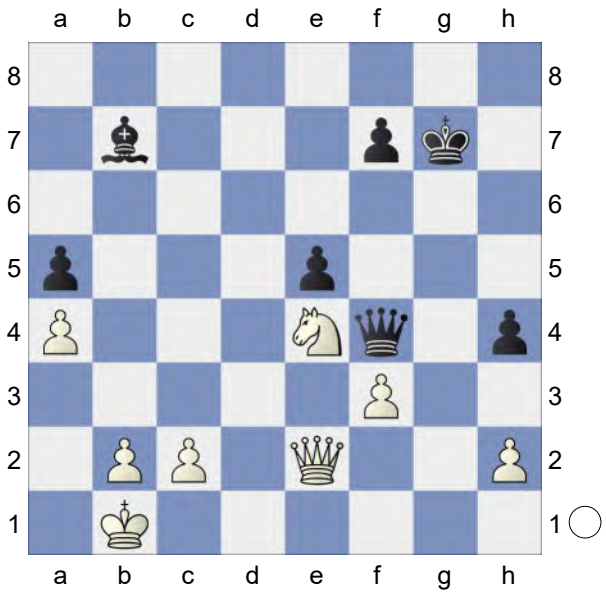


26.Nb3!±
[Don't play 26.Nb5 Qb6 27.Rxd8+ *(27.Qxe5? Re8-+)* 27...Rxd8 28.Qxe5 Bxf3∓]

26...Qb6 27.Qe2 a5 28.Rxd8+ Rxd8 29.a4 Qf6 30.Rd1 Rxd1+

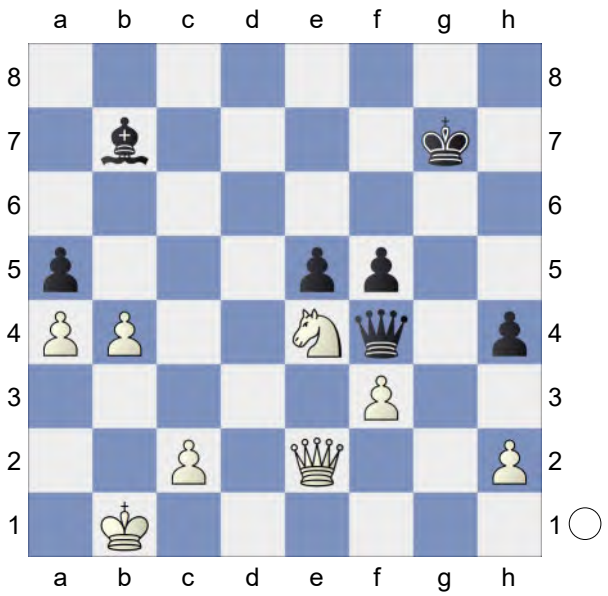


31.Qxd1 Kg7 32.Nd2 Qf4! 33.Qe2 h5 34.gxh5 gxh5 35.Ne4 h4



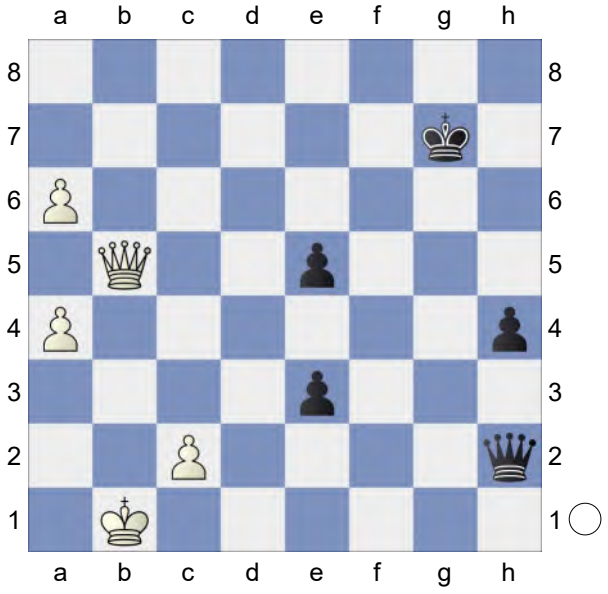
36.b4 f5

(Diagram)



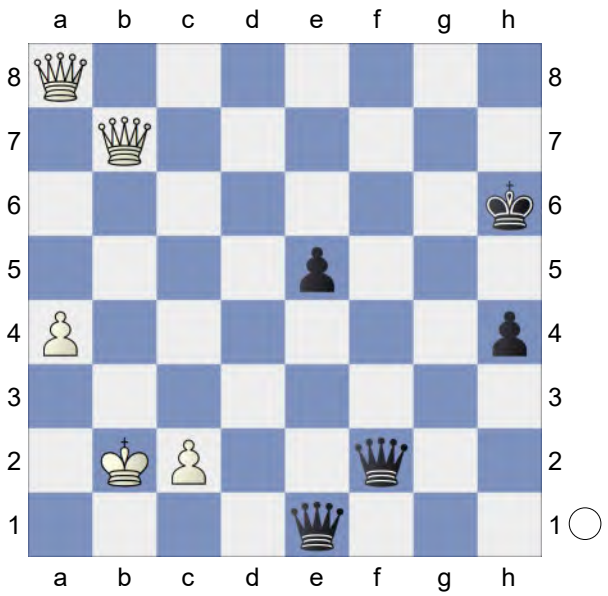
37.Qb5! Bxe4 38.fxe4 fxe4 39.bxa5± Endgame KQ-KQ **39...e3 40.a6 Qxh2?** 16.61/23

[40...Qd4± 1.25/18]

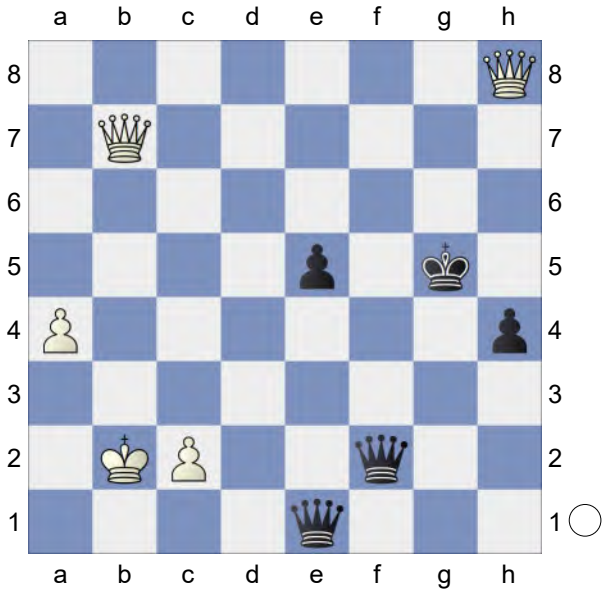


Black cannot hold the game after this. **41.Qb7++- Kh6 42.a7 e2 43.a8Q e1Q+ 44.Kb2** Dancing on a razor blade. **44...Qhf2**

(Diagram)



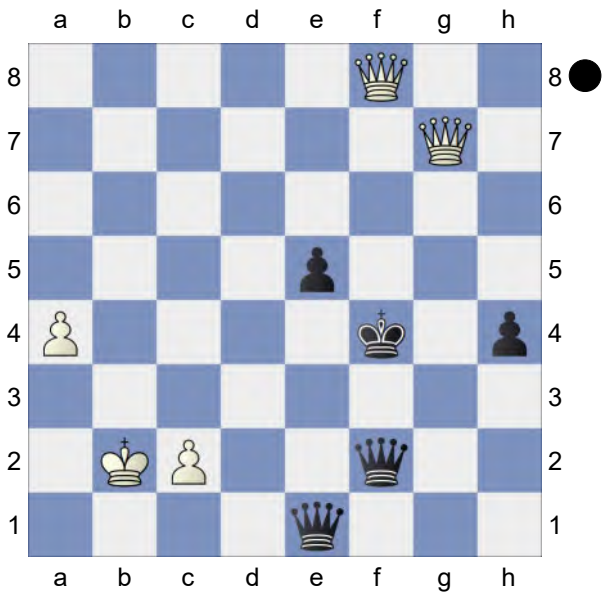
Against Qf8+. White mates. **45.Qh8+! Kg5**



46.Qbg7+ Kf4 47.Qhf8+ 11.11/5

[⌓47.Qhh6+ #5/12 Ke4 48.Qb7+ Kd4 49.Qhb6+ Kc4 50.Q7c6+ Qc5 51.Qcxc5#]

(Diagram)

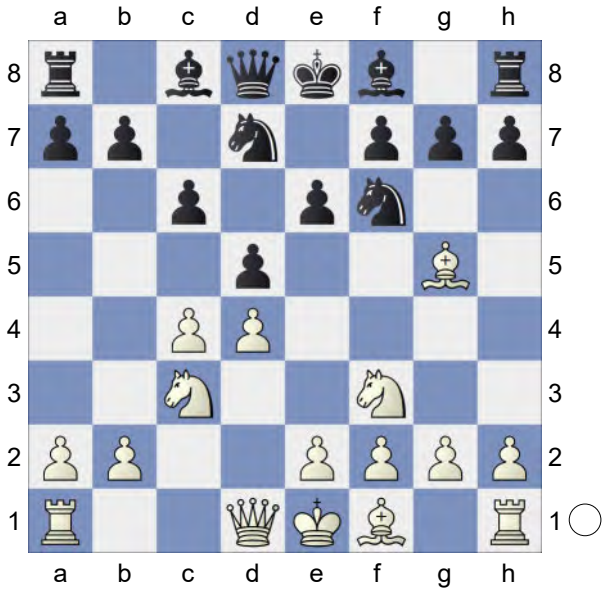


Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.27 (precise)

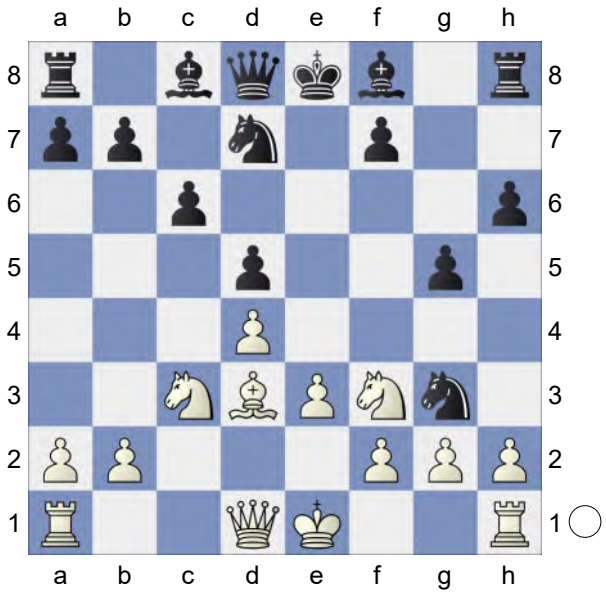
1-0

16 **D43**
□ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
■ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
Tata Steel Challengers (3.2) 20.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

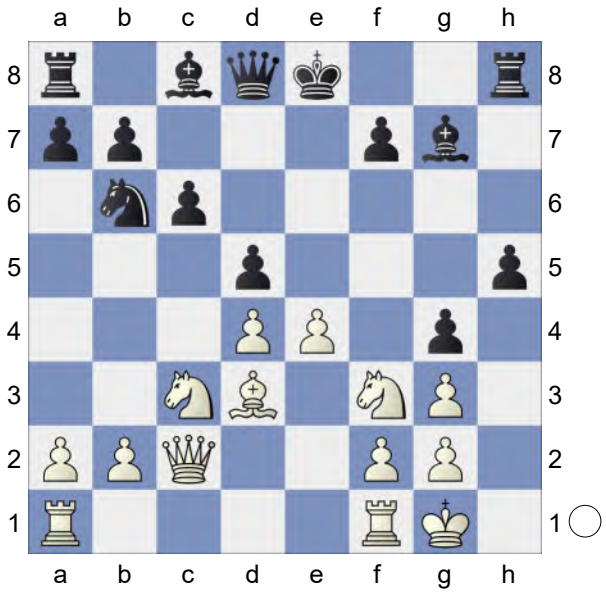
D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bg5 Nbd7**



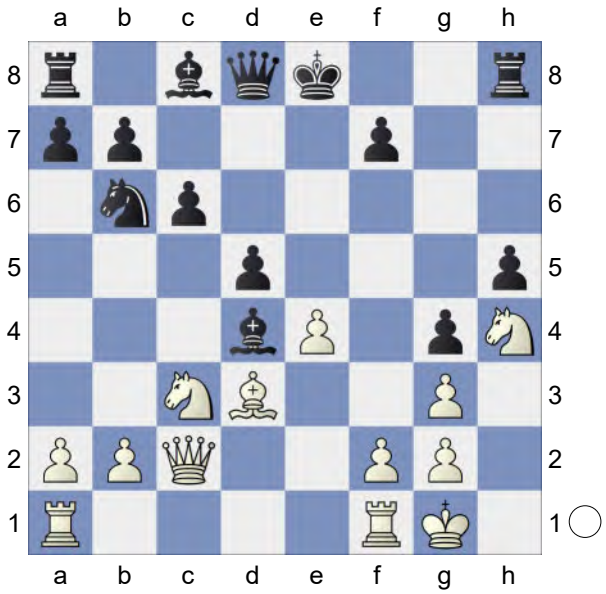
6.cxd5 exd5 7.e3 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Nh5 White has an edge. **10.Bd3 Nxg3**



11.hxg3 Bg7 12.Qc2 Nb6 13.0-0 h5N 0.65/20
[13...0-0 0.34/17 feels stronger. 14.b4 Qe7 15.b5 c5 16.dxc5 Qxc5 17.Rac1 Be6 Cambridge Springs-Cambridge Springs With Cxd]
14.e4± &Bianco is more active. **14...g4**

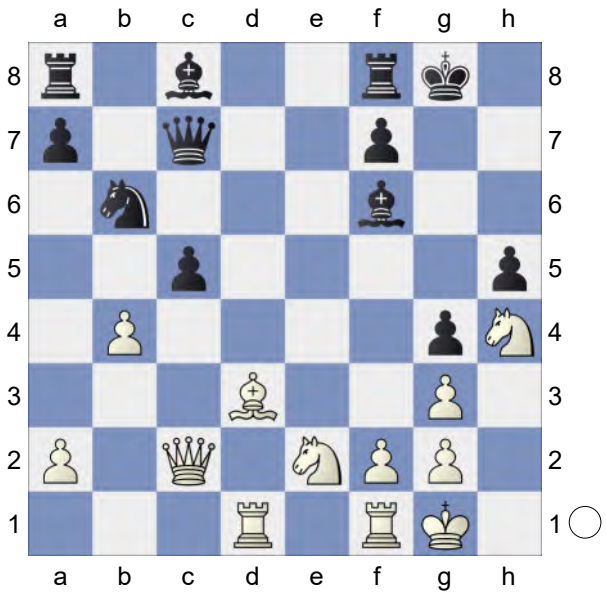


15.Nh4
[15.Ne5 dxe4 16.Bxe4 h4=]
15...Bxd4 1.19/23
[15...dxe4± 0.63/21 16.Nxe4 Bxd4]

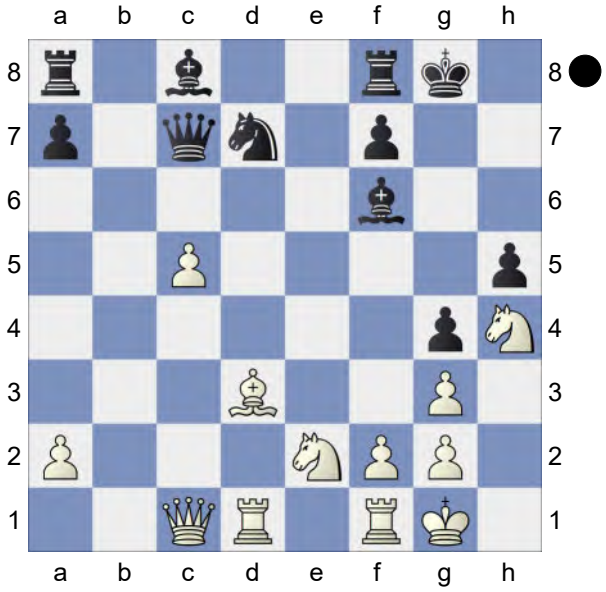


16.exd5± 0-0 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.Rad1 Ne2 is the strong threat. **18...c5?**

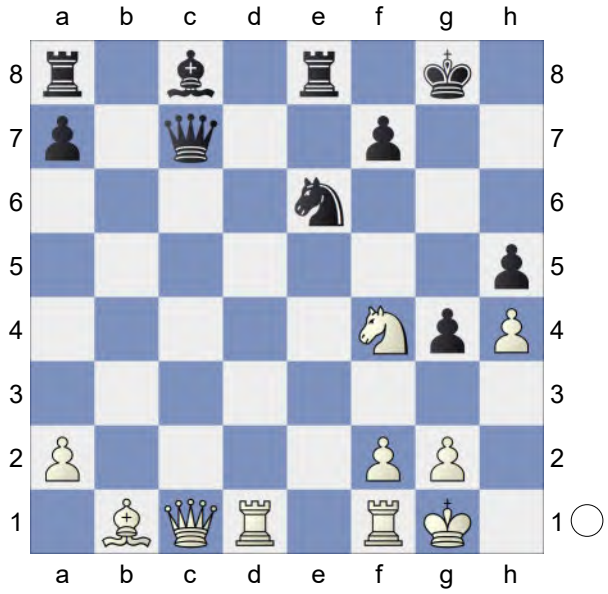
3.26/21
[18...Qf6± 1.23/22]
19.b4+- Qc7
[19...cxb4? 20.Ne2+-]
20.Ne2 Bf6



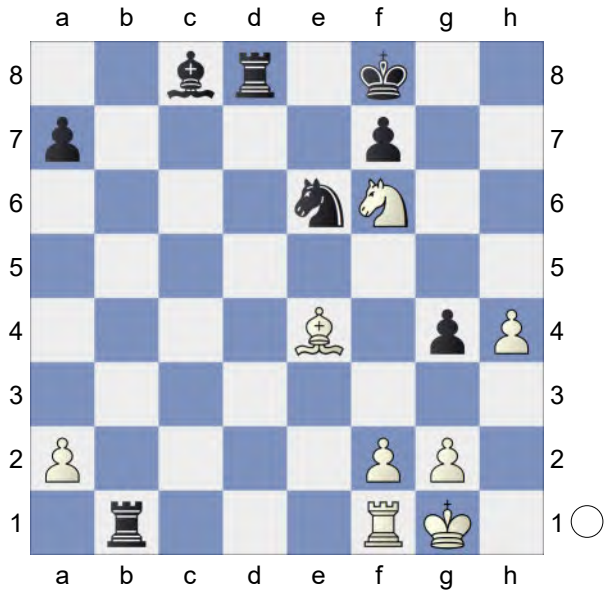
21.bxc5 Nd7 22.Qc1



Intending Qh6 and mate. **22...Nxc5**
23.Bb1
[23.Qh6 Nxd3 24.Qxf6 Qe5 25.Qxe5 Nxe5±]
23...Re8 5.00/23
[⌓23...Bxh4 3.13/21 24.gxh4 Ne6]
24.Nf4 Bxh4 25.gxh4 2.51/23
[⌓25.Nd5 5.91/24 Qd6 26.gxh4]
25...Ne6



White must now prevent ...Qxc1.
26.Nxh5 Qxc1 27.Nf6+ Kf8 28.Rxc1 Rd8 29.Be4
[29.Nxg4 Nd4 30.Ne3 Ne2+ 31.Kh2 Nxc1 32.Rxc1 Be6=]
29...Rb8 30.Rb1 1.20/23
[30.Nxg4?! Nd4 31.Bf3 Nxf3+ 32.gxf3 Rb4±]
[30.Bf5+- 1.75/22]
30...Rxb1±



31.Rxb1

[31.Bxb1 Nf4±]

31...Nf4 Strongly threatening ...Kg7.

32.Rb5 Be6 33.Nh7+ Ke7 1.54/23

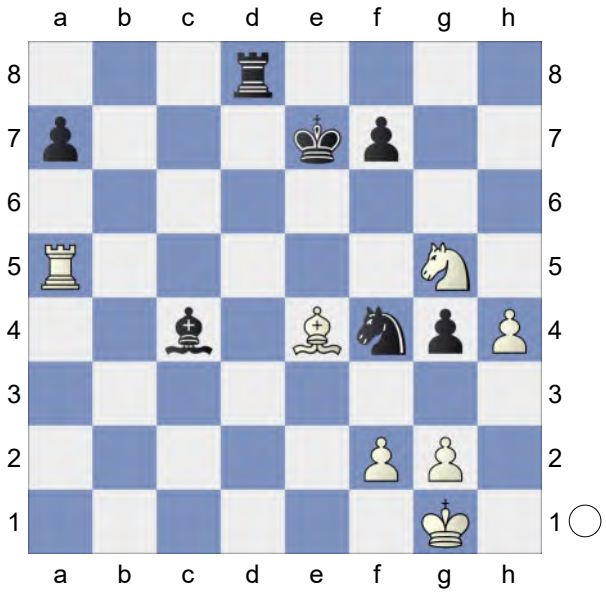
[⌓33...Kg7 1.04/23]

34.Ng5

[34.Rb7+?! Rd7±]

34...Bxa2 35.Ra5 Bc4 2.04/23

[35...Be6± 1.41/21 36.Rxa7+ Rd7]



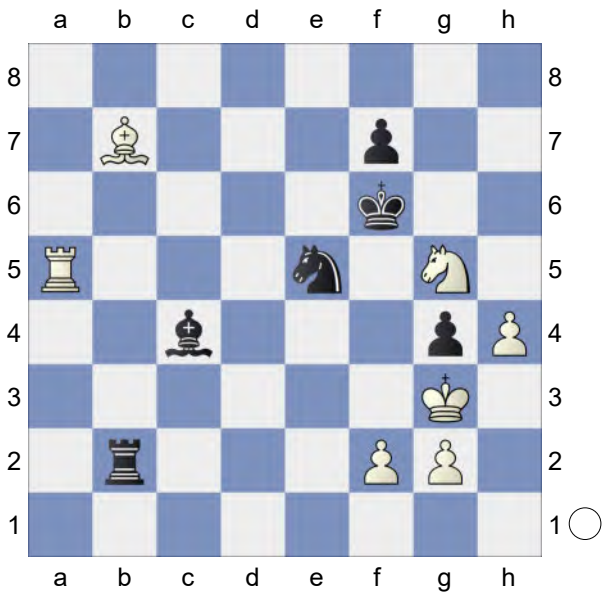
36.Rxa7++- Kf6 37.Kh2 Ng6 38.Kg3 Ne5 39.Ra5 Rd2 40.Bb7 1.91/22

[⌓40.f3 3.23/24]

40...Rb2 2.78/23

[40...Rd8 1.91/22 was worth a try. 41.Be4 Rb8 42.Nh7+ Ke6]

(Diagram)



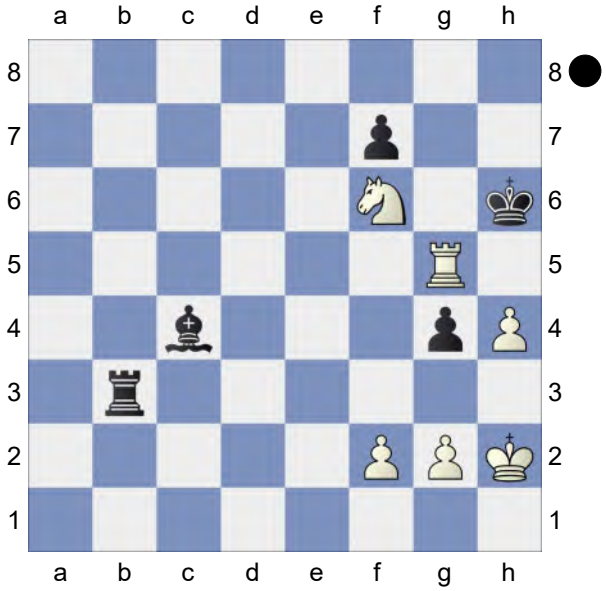
41.Ne4+ White has a decisive advantage. **41...Kg6 42.Rxe5 Rxb7 43.Rg5+**

[Not 43.Kxg4 f5+ 44.Rxf5 Be6±]

43...Kh6 44.Nf6

[Resist 44.Kxg4 Rb2 45.g3 Bd3+-]

44...Rb3+ 45.Kh2

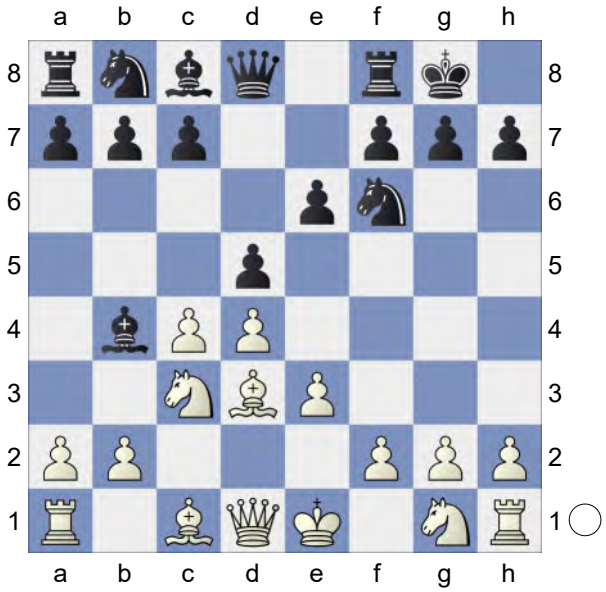


Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.27 (precise)

1-0

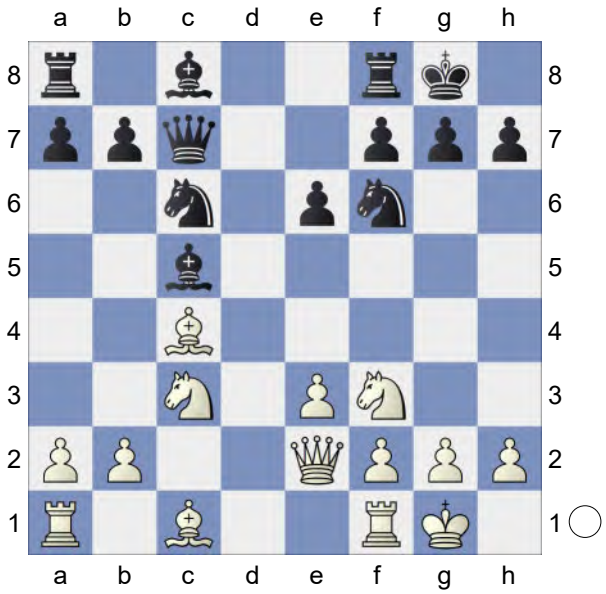
17 **E54**
□ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
■ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
Tata Steel Challengers (3.3) 20.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D40: Queen's Gambit Declined: Semi-Tarrasch with 5 e3 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5**

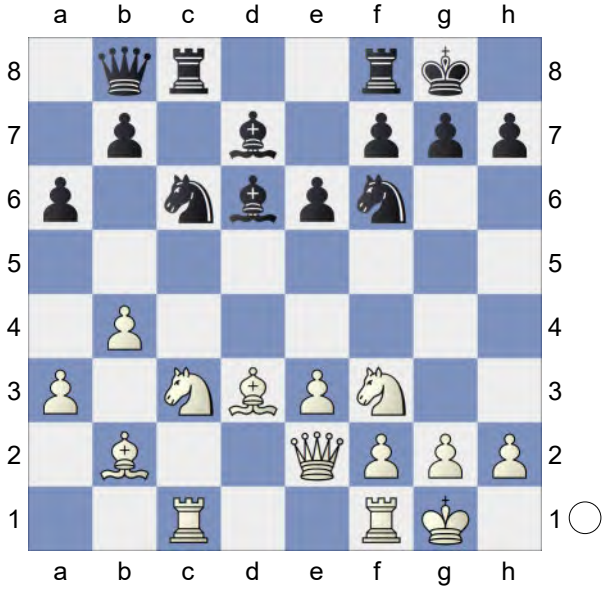


6.Nf3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.dxc5
[9.Bd3 h6 10.Ne4 cxd4 11.exd4 Be7 12.Be3 Nd5 13.Rc1 e5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Nxe3 16.fxe3 Be6 17.Bc4 Qb6 18.Qd4 Rfc8 19.Qxb6 axb6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Rxc8+ Rxc8 22.Rd1 Rc2 23.Rd2 Rc4 Perez Berenguer,V (2652)-5.Be2 0-0-0 6.Be3_46143 (2687) Karditsa 2022 200 Traps In The Opening [Krasenkov Mikhalchishin Beliavsky Neven] 1-0 (39)]
9...Bxc5 10.Qe2N
[10.Qc2 b6 11.a3 Bb7 12.b4 Bd6 13.Rd1 Qe7 11) 4.e3 / 7.O-O (Rubinstein-Rubinstein Mainline: 9. dxc5]

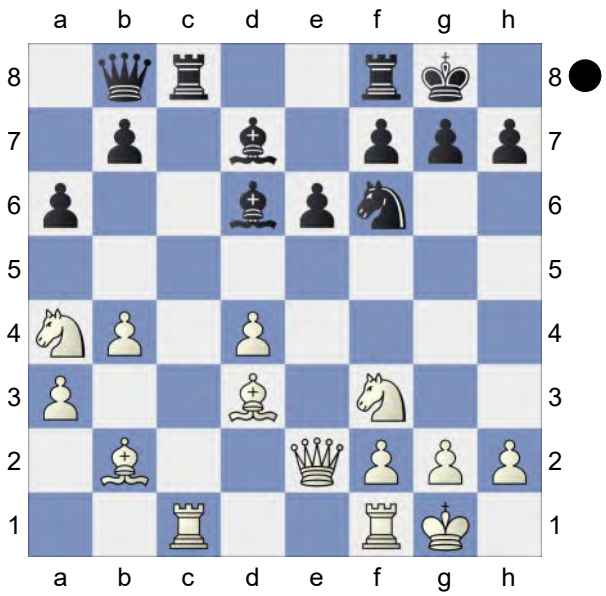
10...Qc7



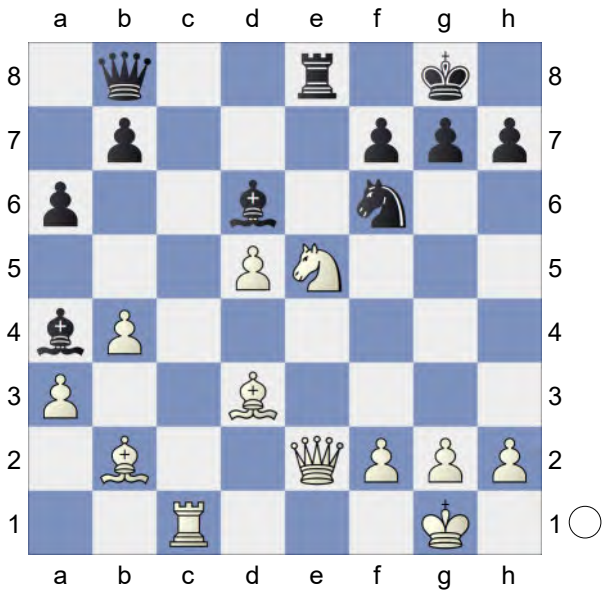
11.a3 a6 12.b4 Bd6 13.Bb2 Bd7
White has an edge. **14.Rac1 Rac8**
15.Bd3 Qb8
[15...Ne5? 16.Ne4 Qb8 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qg4+ *(20.Qh5 f5±)* 20...Kh8 21.Qh4+-]



16.Na4 0.16/17
[16.Ne4± 0.87/20 Nxe4 17.Bxe4]
16...Nd4 17.exd4
(Diagram)



And now Rxc8 would win. **17...Bxa4 18.d5 e5 19.Nxe5** aiming for Rxc8. **19...Rxc1 20.Rxc1** Threatens to win with Ng4. **20...Re8**

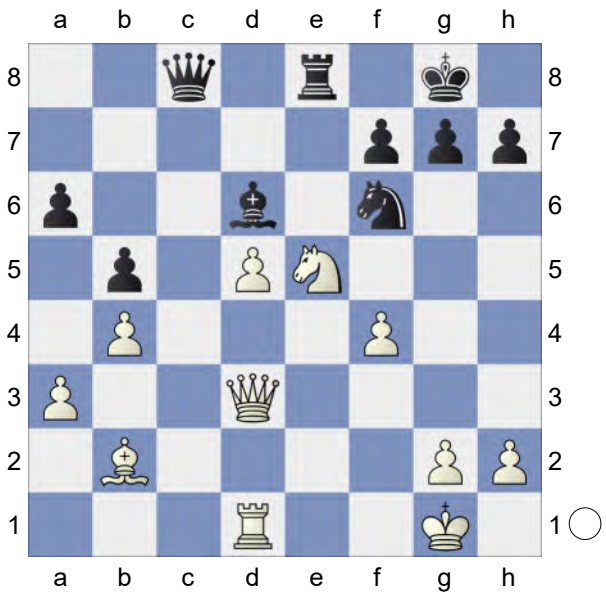


21.f4 Bb3 22.Bc4 Bxc4 23.Qxc4 Qd8 24.Rd1 Qc8 0.89/20

[24...Qb6+= 0.25/17 remains equal. 25.Bd4 Qc7]

25.Qd3± b5

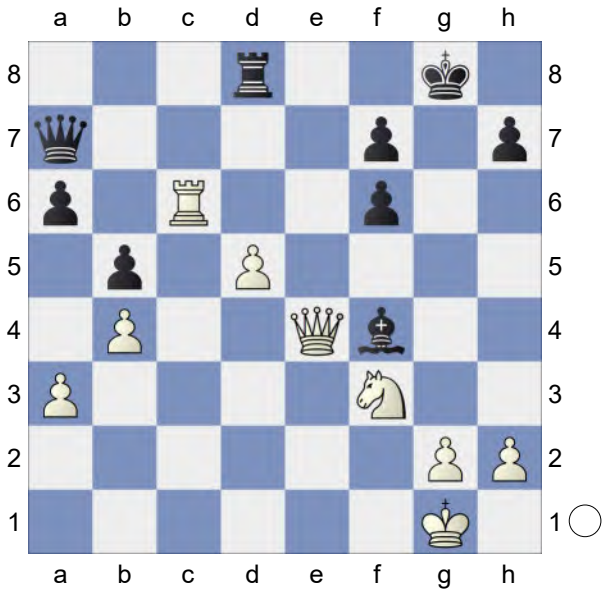
(Diagram)



26.Rc1 Qb7 27.Rc6 Rd8 Hoping for ... Bxe5. **28.Nf3** 0x0.0021694cb1bfdp-1022s more active pieces. **28...Bxf4 29.Bxf6 gxf6 30.Qe4↑** White is really pushing.

[30.Rxf6?! Rxd5 31.Qc2 Be3+ 32.Kf1 Rd8=]

30...Qa7+

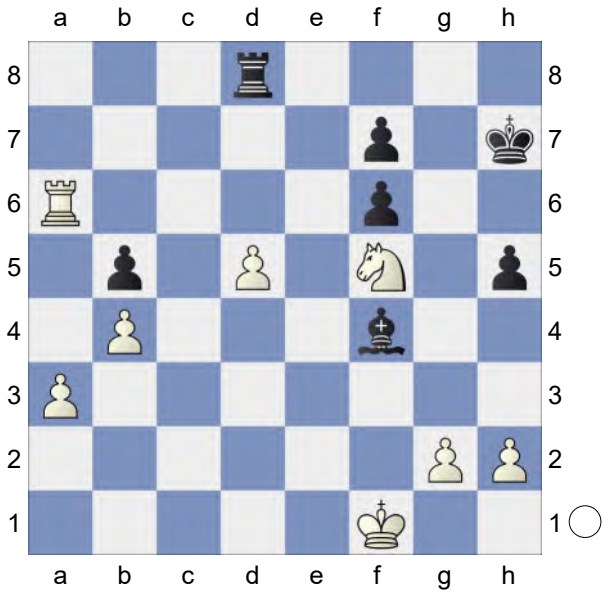


31.Kf1 Qe3 32.Qxe3 Bxe3 Endgame KRB-KRN **33.Nh4** 1.03/22

[33.Rxa6 Rxd5 34.Rxf6 Bc1±]

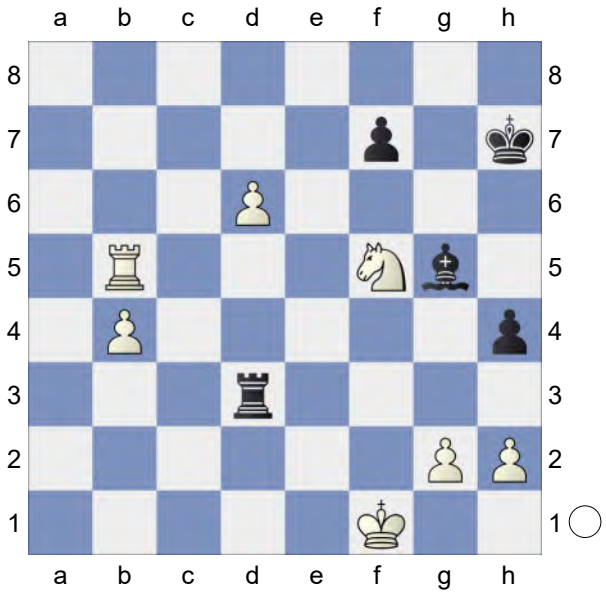
[⌓33.Ke2 1.57/19 Bf4 34.Kd3 *(34.Rxa6 Rxd5 35.Rxf6 Bc1±;*

34.Rxf6 Bd6±)]
33...h5? 2.89/23 This move loses the game for Black.
[33...Rxd5± 1.03/22 was necessary. 34.Rc8+ Kg7]
34.Nf5+-
[34.Rxa6 Rxd5 35.Ke2 Bf4±]
[34.Rxf6 Bg5 35.Rxa6 Bxh4∓]
34...Bf4 35.Rxa6 Black must now prevent Rb6.
[Not 35.Rxf6 Bg5 36.Rxa6 *(36.Rd6 Rxd6 37.Nxd6 Bc1=)* 36...Rxd5±]
35...Kh7

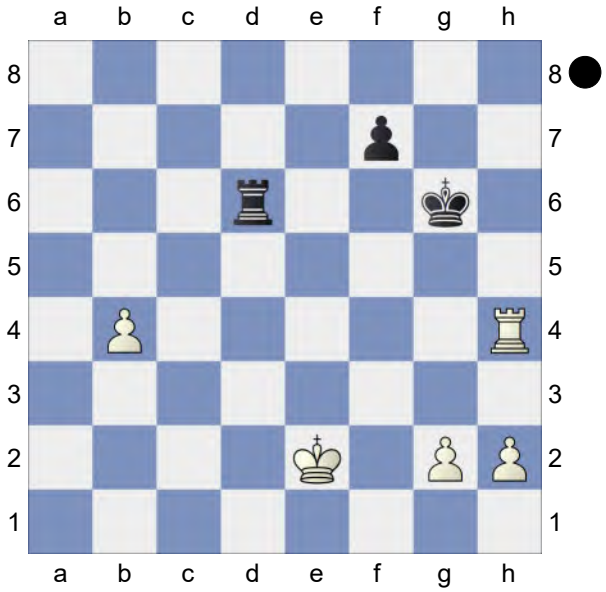


36.Rxf6 Bg5 37.Rd6
[Inferior is 37.Rxf7+ Kg6 38.Rb7 Kxf5 39.Rxb5 Ke4=]
37...Ra8 38.Rb6 Rxa3 39.Rxb5 h4 40.d6 Rd3

(Diagram)



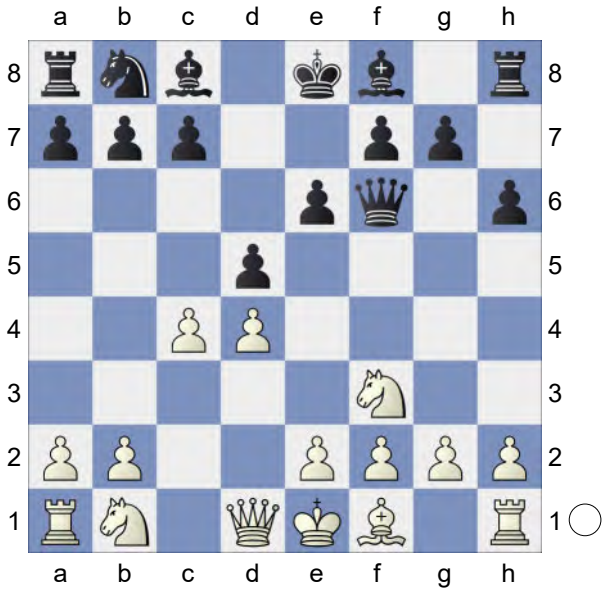
41.Nxh4! White has a decisive advantage. **41...Bxh4 42.Rh5+ Kg6 43.Rxh4 Rxd6 44.Ke2**



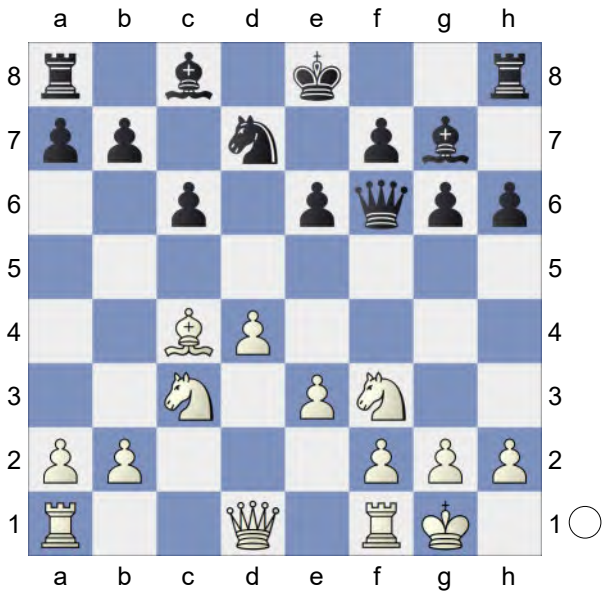
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)
1-0

18 **D30**
□ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
■ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
Tata Steel Challengers (3.4) 20.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

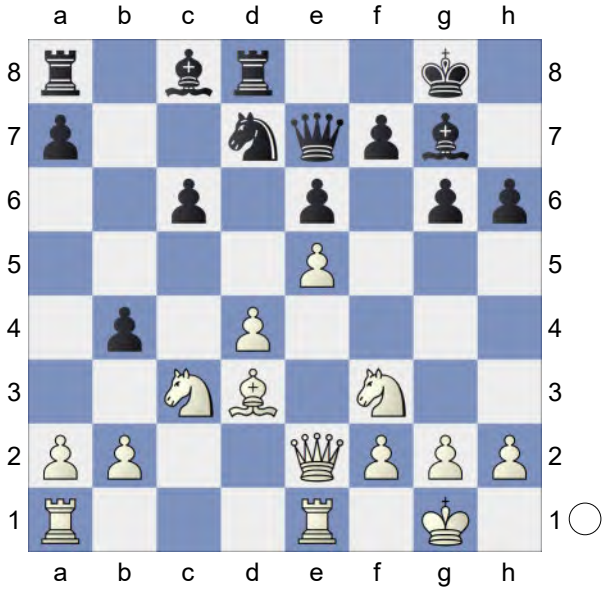
D43: Semi-Slav: 5 Bg5 h6 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bxf6 Qxf6**



6.Nc3
[6.Nbd2 Be7 7.Qc2 0-0 8.e3 c5 9.dxc5 Nd7 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nb3 a5 12.a4 b6 13.c6 Bb4+ 14.Kd1 Nc5 15.Nbd4 Ne4 16.Bb5 g5 17.h3 h5 18.Kc1 Bc5 19.Kb1 Re8 20.Ka2 Ra7 Buese,R (2709)-11...Qc7 12. Nbd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2785) Cappelle la Grande 2014 OR: The Petroff Defence [Yudasin,Leonid] 1-0]
6...c6N
[6...Qd8 7.a3 *(7.e3 Be7 8.Qc2 c6 9.0-0-0 Nd7 10.h4 Qa5 11.Kb1 dxc4 12.Bxc4 b5 13.Bd3 Bb7 14.Nd2 Rc8 15.Nb3 Qb6 16.Rc1* Surveyuebersicht-6.Nc3 Qd8 Opening Encyclopaedia 21 [Konikowski,Jerzy]*)* 7...Be7 8.e4 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nd7 10.Bd3 c5 11.dxc5 Nxc5 12.Nxc5 Bxc5 13.0-0 a5 14.Qe2 D 30/16]
7.e3 Nd7 8.Be2 dxc4 9.Bxc4 g6 10.0-0 Bg7

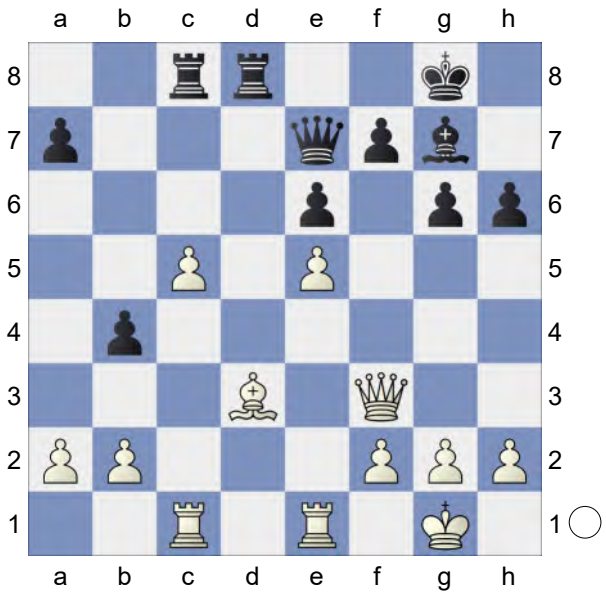


11.e4 0-0 12.e5 Qe7 13.Re1 Rd8 14.Qe2 b5 15.Bd3 b4

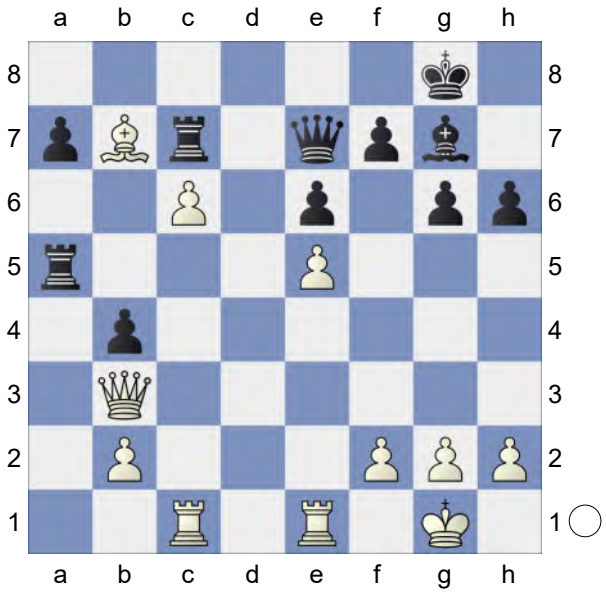


The position is equal. **16.Na4 c5 17.Rac1 Bb7**
[Much less strong is 17...cxd4 18.Rc7±]
[17...cxd4 looks sharper. 18.Rc7 Rb8 19.Qe4 Qe8]

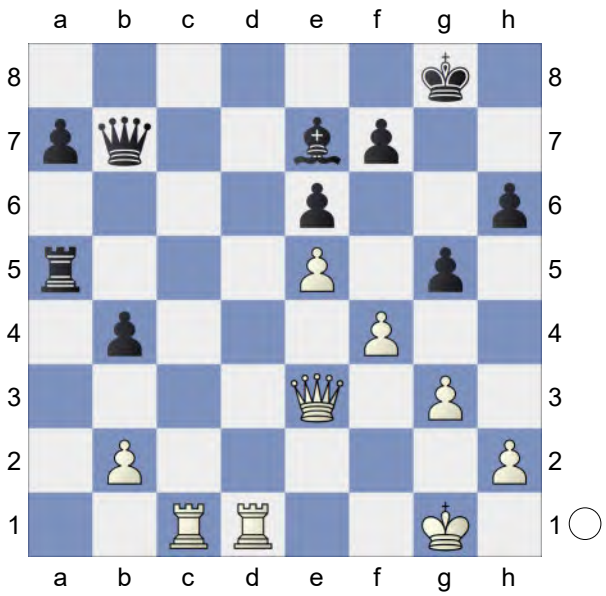
18.Nxc5 Nxc5 19.dxc5 Strongly threatening c6.
[Much weaker is 19.Rxc5 Rxd4 20.Nxd4 Qxc5∓]
19...Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Rac8



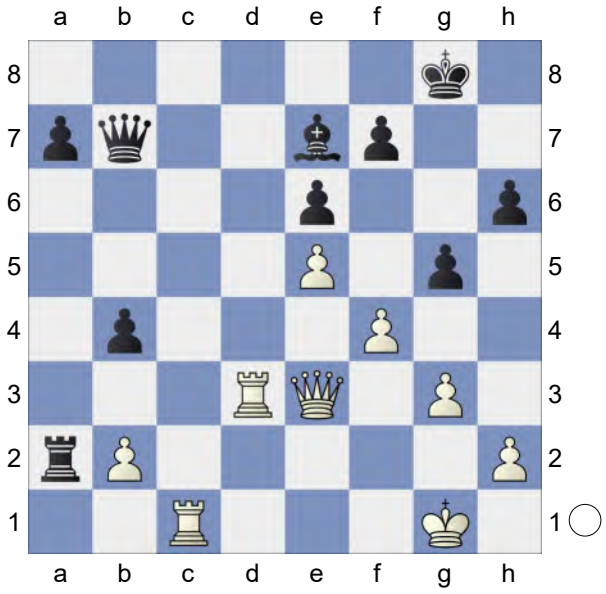
21.c6 Rd5 22.Ba6 Rc7 23.Qg3 Ra5 24.Bb7 Rxa2 25.Qb3 Ra5



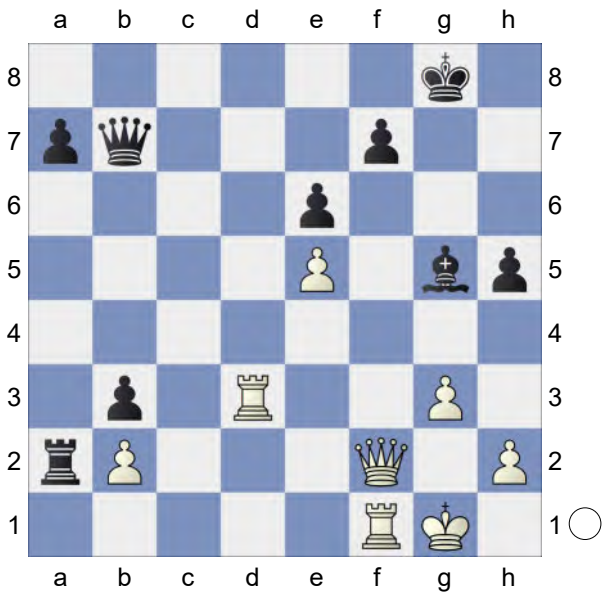
26.f4↑ White is pushing. **26...g5 27.g3 Bf8 28.Red1** 0.01/20
[28.Kg2± 0.50/20]
28...Rxb7= 29.cxb7 Qxb7 ...Bc5+ is the strong threat. **30.Qe3** Prevents Bc5.
30...Be7



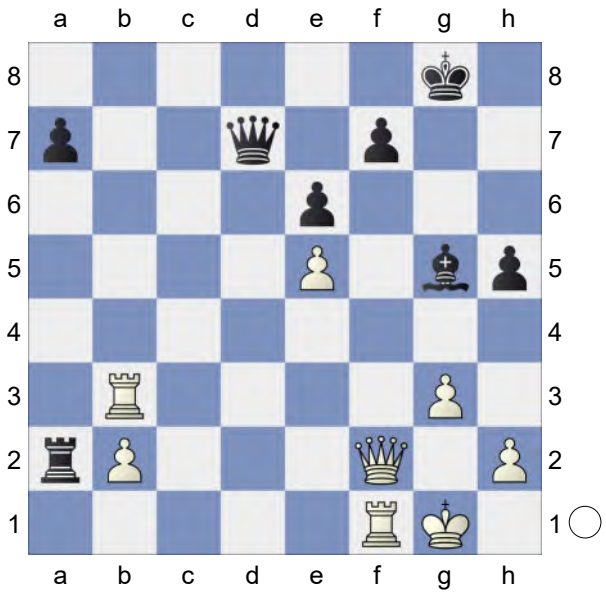
31.Rd3 Ra2 0.91/20
[31...Kg7± 0.44/18]



32.Qf2 0.57/19
[Better is 32.Rd2!± 0.91/20]
32...b3 1.48/18
[Black should try 32...g4± 0.57/19]
33.fxg5± Bxg5 3.02/23
[⌓33...hxg5 1.68/23 34.Rf1 Qb6]
34.Rf1+- h5? 7.66/26
[34...Qb6 3.21/23 35.Kg2 Qxf2+ 36.Rxf2 Ra6]

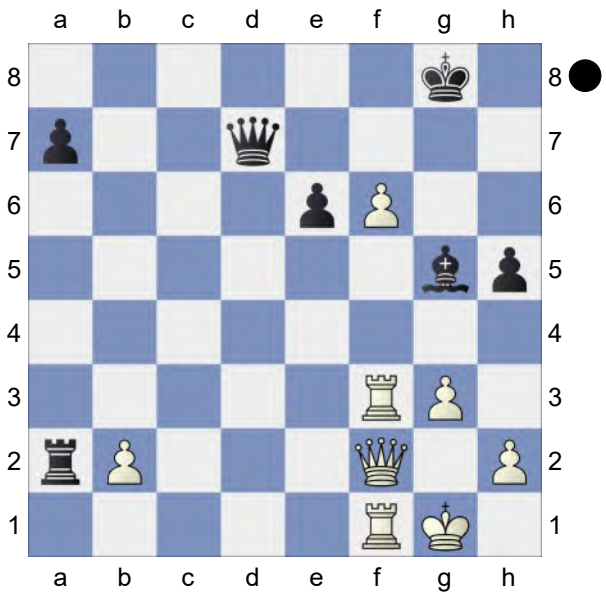


35.Rxb3!! White is clearly winning.
35...Qd7
[35...Qc7 36.Qf3]



36.Rf3 4.27/23
[⌓36.Rb8+ 10.83/25 Kh7 37.h4]
36...f5 7.53/22
[⌓36...Qd2 4.27/23 37.Qxd2 *(37.Rxf7 Be3=)* 37...Bxd2 38.Rxf7 Be3+ 39.Kh1 Rxb2]
37.exf6

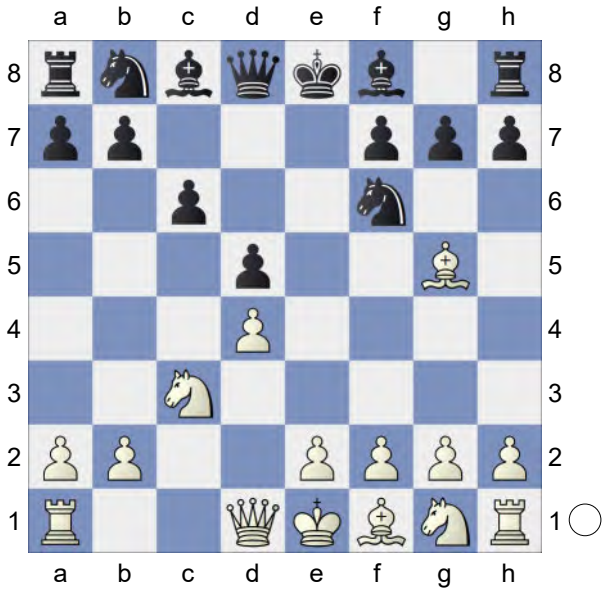
(Diagram)



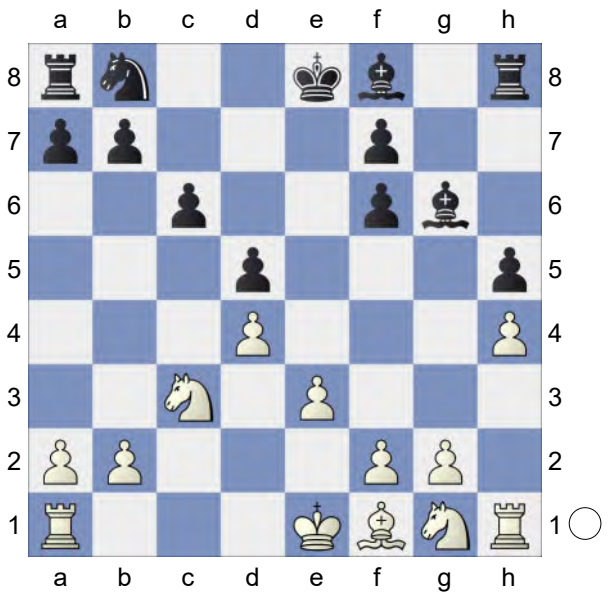
Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)
1-0

19 **D35**
□ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
■ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
Tata Steel Challengers (3.5) 20.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

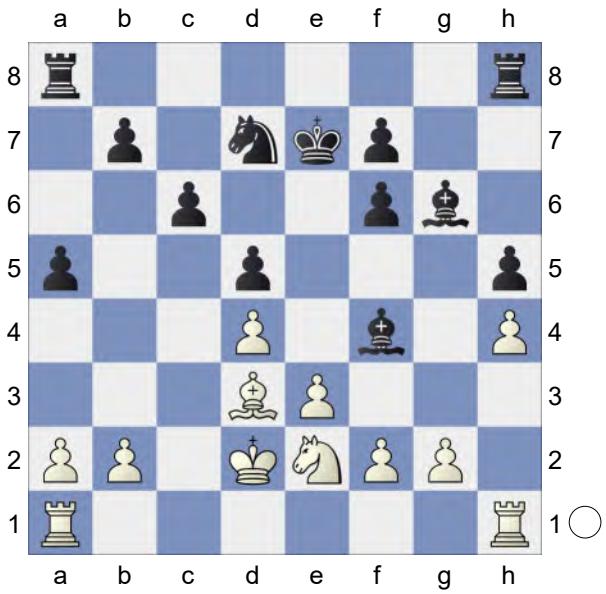
D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6**



6.e3 Bf5 7.Qf3 Bg6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Qxf6 gxf6 10.h4 h5

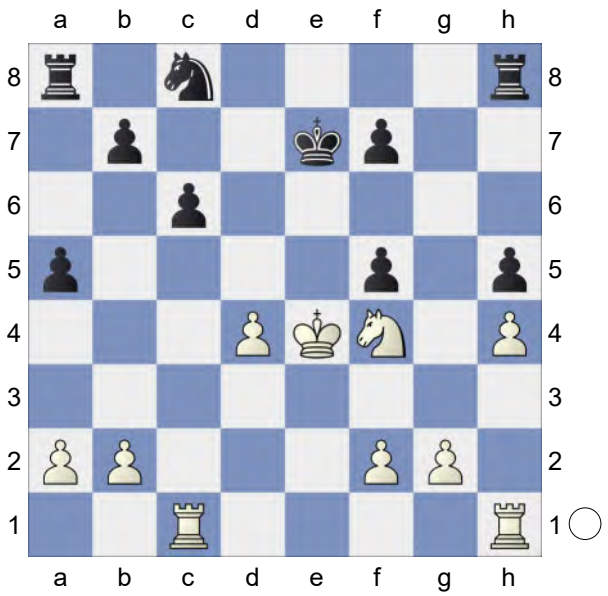


11.Kd2
[11.Rd1 Nd7 12.Bd3 Nb6 13.Nge2 Bd6 14.Rh3 a5 15.Rf3 Ke7 16.e4 dxe4 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 Rad8 19.Rb3 Bb4+ 20.Kf1 Nc4 21.Kg1 c5 22.a3 a4 23.Rf3 Ba5 24.Bxb7 Rb8 25.Bd5 Nxb2 Vakhidov,J (2571)-Ju,W (2563) Almaty KAZ 2024 1-0 (41)]
11...Nd7 12.Bd3 Bd6 The position is equal. **13.Nh3 a5N**
[13...Nb6 14.Nf4 Bxf4 15.exf4 Bxd3 16.Kxd3 Nc4 17.b3 Nd6 18.Rhe1+ Kd7 19.Re2 f5 20.g3 Ne4 21.f3 Nd6 22.Rg1 Rhg8 23.Nd1 a5 24.a4 b6 25.Ne3 Rae8 26.Reg2 Re6 27.g4 fxg4 28.fxg4 14.Bc4 Rc4 15.g4_14443 (2525)-Ojasuo,A (2698) Belgrad 2023 TD 92\01 [John Watson] 0-1 (82)]
14.Ne2 Ke7 15.Nhf4 Bxf4

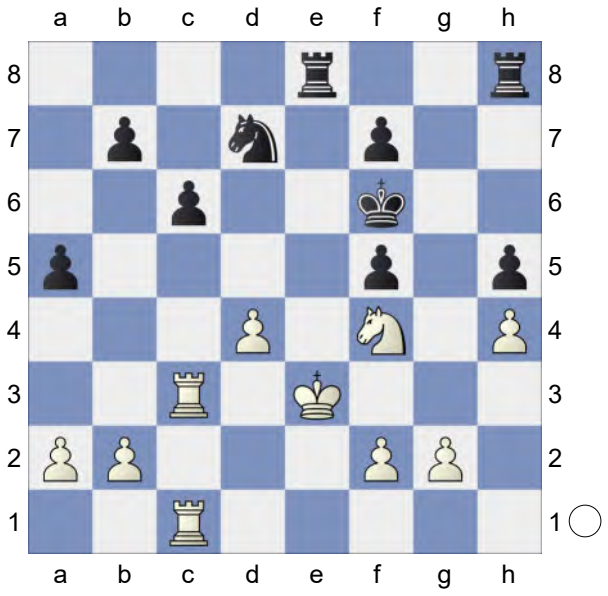


16.Nxf4 Bxd3 17.Kxd3 Nb6 0.62/19
[17...Nf8= 0.30/20 is superior.]
18.Rac1 Nc8 1.23/22
[18...a4± 0.43/19]
19.e4!± dxe4+ 20.Kxe4 f5+

(Diagram)

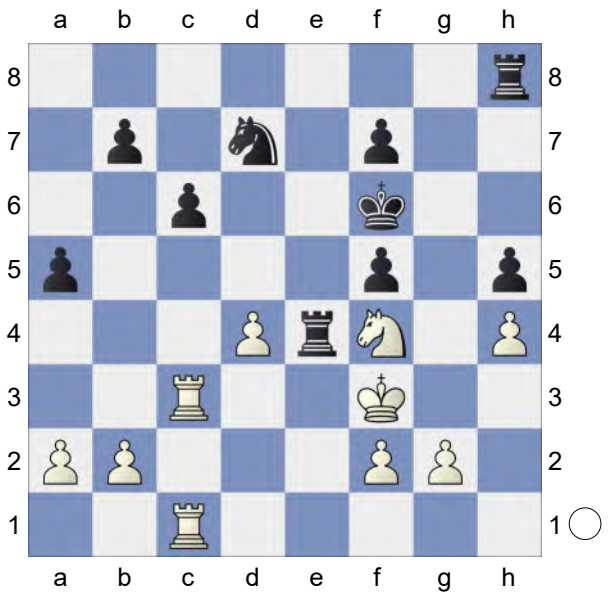


21.Ke3 0.95/20
[21.Kxf5? Nd6+ 22.Kg5 f6+ 23.Kg6 Rag8#]
[⌓21.Kf3 1.29/21]
21...Nb6 22.Rc5 Kf6 23.Rhc1 Nd7 24.R5c3 Rae8+

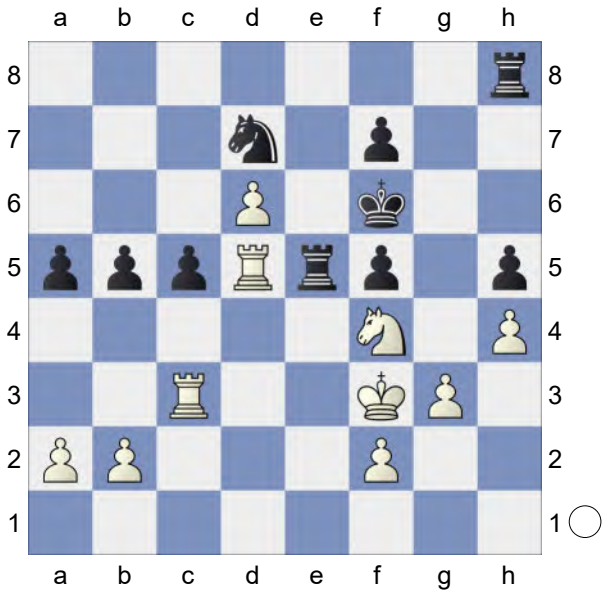


25.Kf3! Re4

(Diagram)

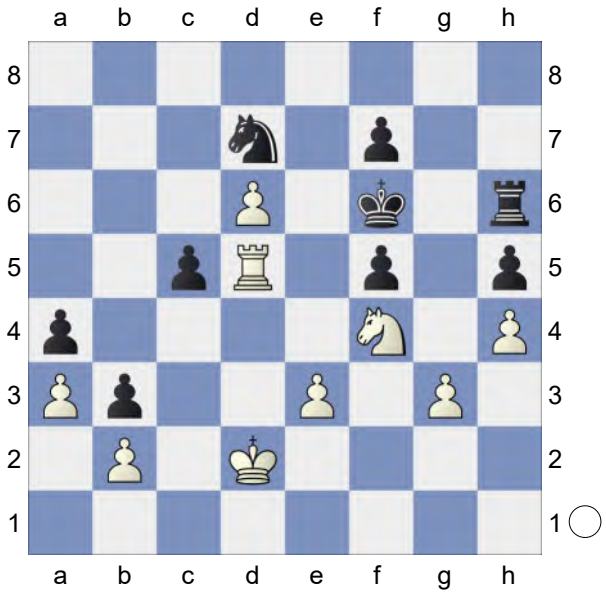


26.Rd1 Nf8 1.14/23
[26...c5± 0.59/21]
27.d5 c5 28.g3
[Inferior is 28.Rxc5 Nd7 29.Nd3 *(29.Rxa5? Ne5+ 30.Kg3 Rg8+ 31.Kh3 Rxf4-+)* 29...Nxc5 30.Nxc5 Rb4∓]
28...Nd7 29.d6 b5 1.52/22
[⌓29...b6 1.07/22]
30.Rd5 Re5



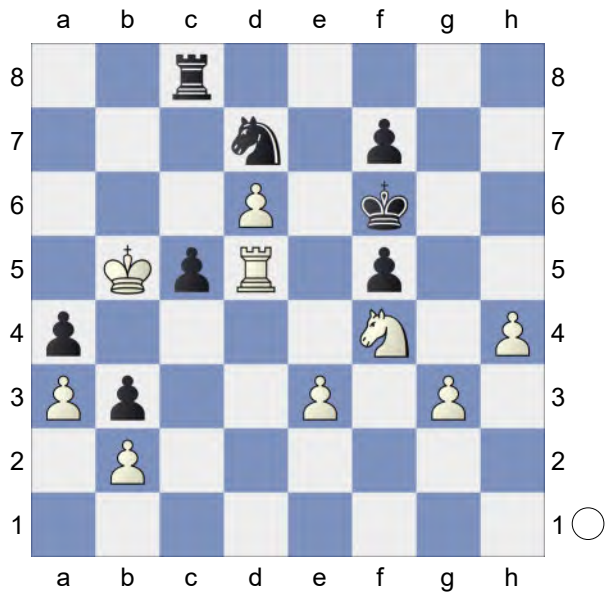
31.Re3 a4 32.Ke2 And now Rexe5 would win. &Bianco is more active.
32...Rxe3+ 33.fxe3 0.98/21

Endgame KRN-KRN
[⌓33.Kxe3 1.53/24 Re8+ 34.Kd2]
33...b4 1.34/22
[Black should try 33...a3 0.98/21]
34.Kd2 0.88/20
[⌓34.e4 1.34/22 fxe4 35.Nxh5+ Ke6 36.Nf4+ Kf6 37.Ke3]
34...Rh6 1.30/20
[⌓34...Rg8 0.88/20]
35.a3 b3 2.06/25
[35...Rh8± 1.38/18 was called for. 36.axb4 cxb4]

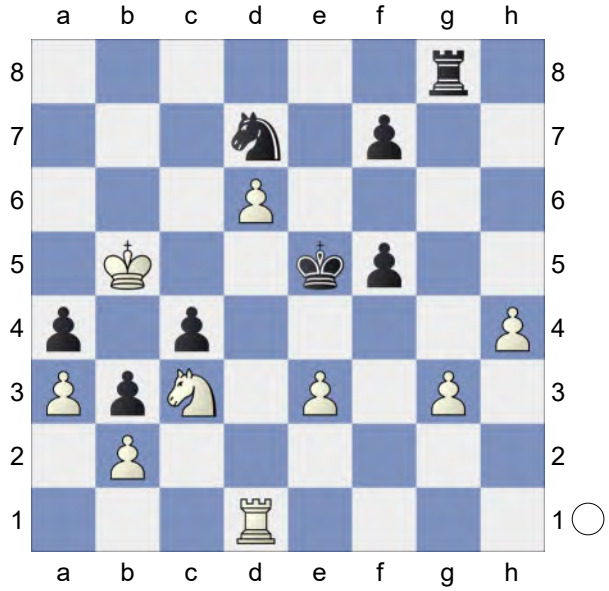


36.Kc3 1.05/24
[36.Kd3!+- 2.06/25]
36...Rh8 37.Kc4 Re8? 3.43/25
[37...Nb6+± 1.45/22 was necessary. 38.Kxc5 Nxd5 39.Nxd5+ Ke6]
38.Nxh5+ Kg6 aiming for ...Nb6+.
39.Nf4+ Kf6 40.Kb5 Kc6 is the strong threat. **40...Rc8**

(Diagram)

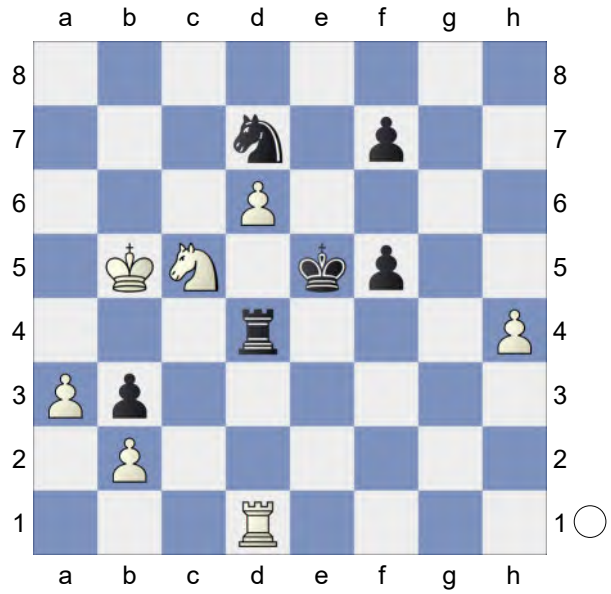


41.Ne2 Ke6 42.Nf4+ 0.01/5
[Better is 42.Rd1+- 2.03/22]
42...Kf6= 43.Rd1 c4 44.Nd5+
[Don't take 44.Kxa4 Rb8 45.Ka5 Rb7]
44...Ke5 45.Nc3 Rg8



46.Nxa4 White is clearly winning.
46...Rxg3 6.74/24
[⌓46...Rc8 4.26/20 47.h5 Ke6]
47.Kxc4 Rxe3 8.07/23
[⌓47...Ke6 4.26/23 48.Nc5+ *(48.Kxb3 f4+-)* 48...Nxc5 49.Kxc5 Kd7]

48.Nc5+- Re4+ 49.Kb5 Rd4

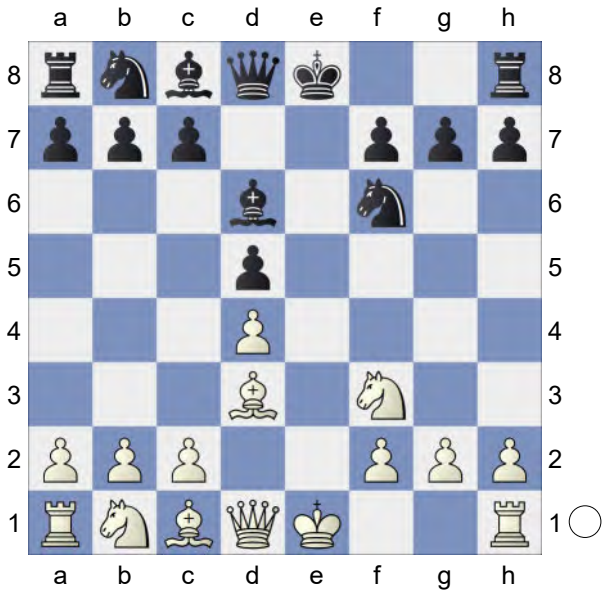


Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.34

1-0

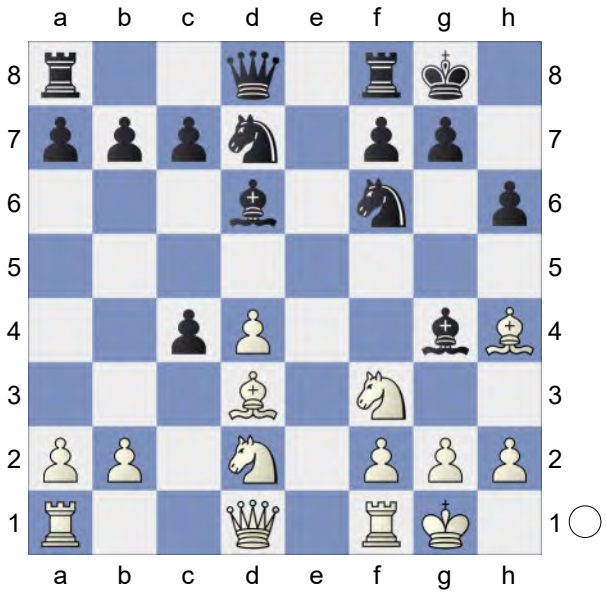
20 **C01**
□ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
■ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
Tata Steel Challengers (3.6) 20.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C01: French: Exchange Variation One of the problems with playing the French as Black, especially against weaker opponents, is the boring French Exchange. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 Bd6**

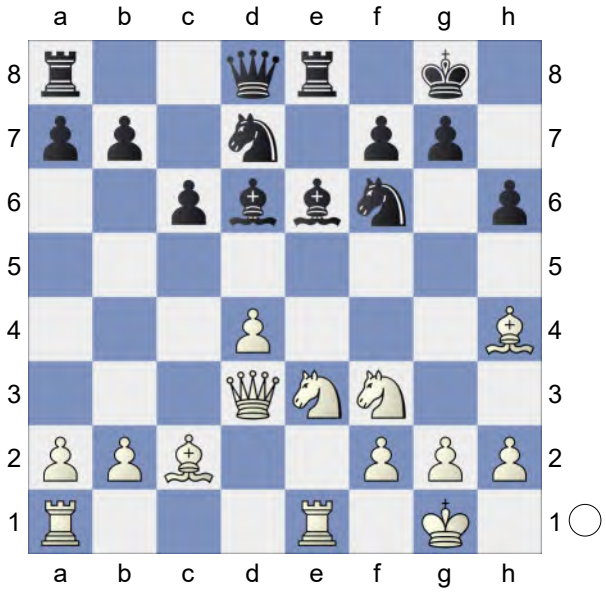


6.0-0 0-0 7.Bg5 Bg4 8.Nbd2 h6
[8...Nbd7 9.c3 c6 French Exchange ChessPub Guide 2024 French [John Watson]]
9.Bh4 Nbd7N
[9...Bf4 10.Re1 g5 11.Bg3 Nh5 12.Nf1 Qf6 13.h3 C 01/16-N,N]
10.c4 dxc4

(Diagram)

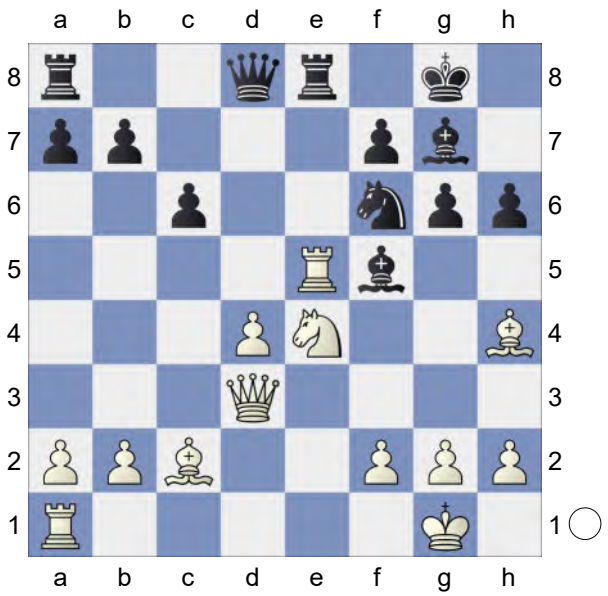


The position is equal. **11.Nxc4 Nb6 12.Ne3 Be6 13.Bc2 Re8 14.Qd3 c6 15.Rfe1 Nbd7**

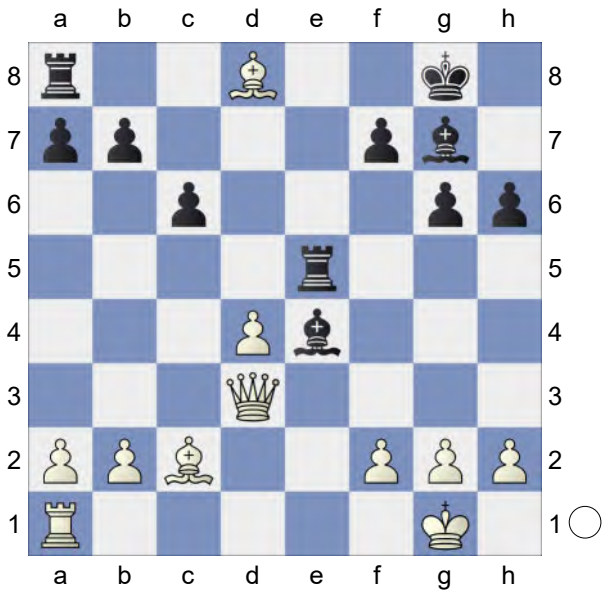


16.Nf5 Bf8 17.Ne5→ White is up to no good. **17...Nxe5 18.Rxe5 g6 19.Ng3** Black must now prevent Nh5! **19...Bg7 20.Ne4 Bf5?** 4.50/23
[20...g5± 0.50/19 21.Nxf6+ Qxf6 22.Qh7+ Kf8]

(Diagram)

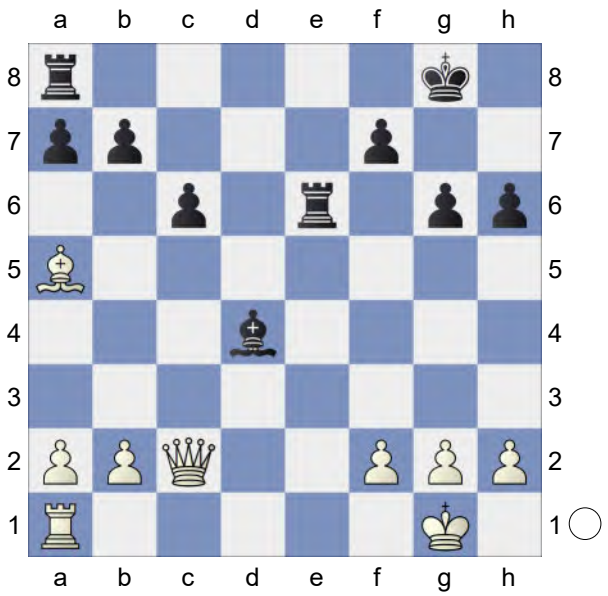


Black cannot hold the game after this.
21.Bxf6+- White is clearly winning.
21...Bxe4 22.Bxd8 Rxe5

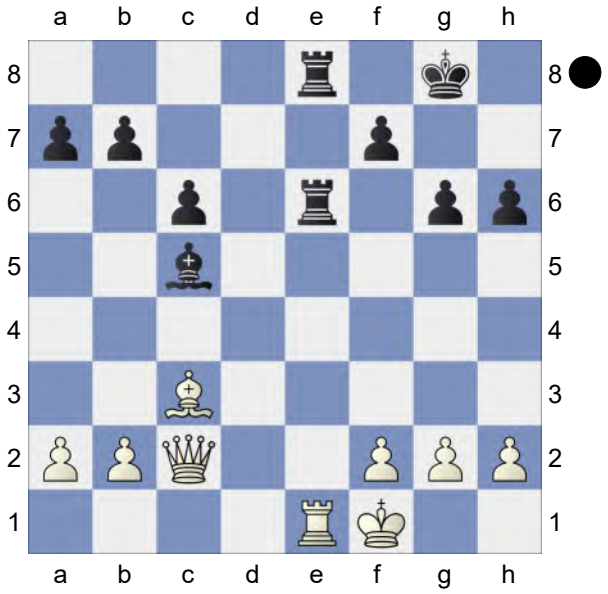


23.Qc3 Re6 24.Ba5 Bxc2 25.Qxc2 Bxd4

(Diagram)



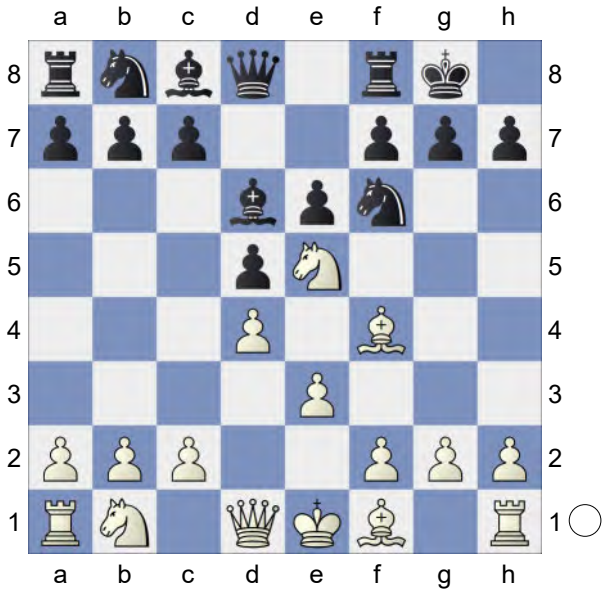
26.Bc3 Rae8 27.Kf1 Bc5 28.Re1



Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.45
1-0

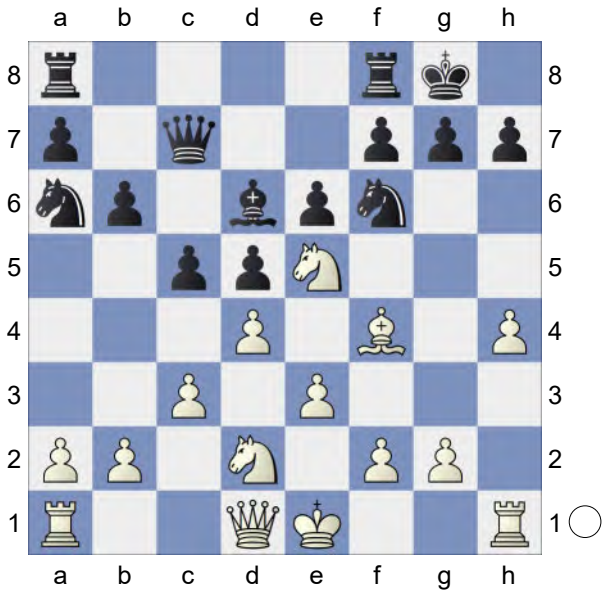
21 **D00**
□ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
■ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
Tata Steel Challengers (3.7) 20.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2. ..Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4 **1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6N**
[3...Bg4 4.f3 Bf5 5.c4 c6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Qb3 Qb6 8.c5 Qxb3 9.axb3 Be7 10.b4 0-0 11.b5 Rc8 12.g4 Bg6 13.h4 h5 14.g5 Nfd7 15.Nge2]
4.Nf3 Bd6 5.Ne5 0-0

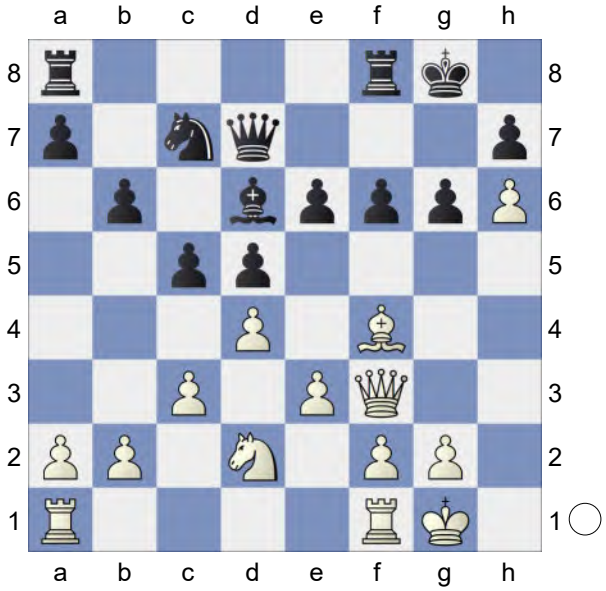


6.Nd2 c5 7.c3 Qc7 8.Bd3 b6 9.h4 The position is equal. **9...Ba6 10.Bxa6! Nxa6**

(Diagram)

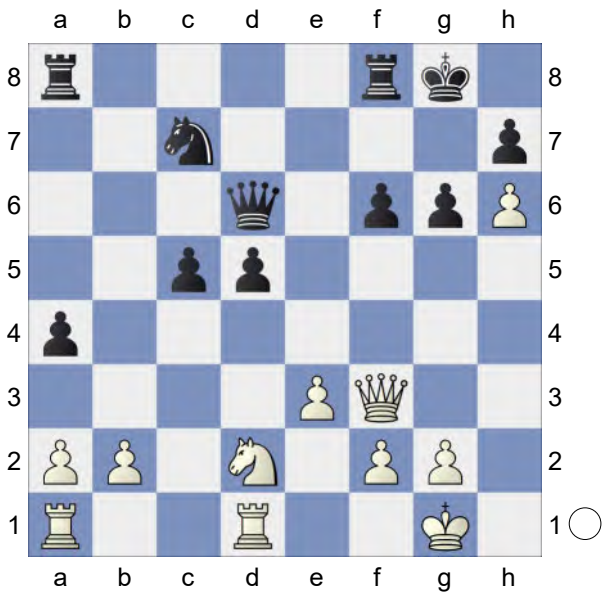


11.h5 Nd7 0.41/20
[11...h6= -0.11/18]
12.h6± g6 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Qf3 f6 15.0-0 Nc7

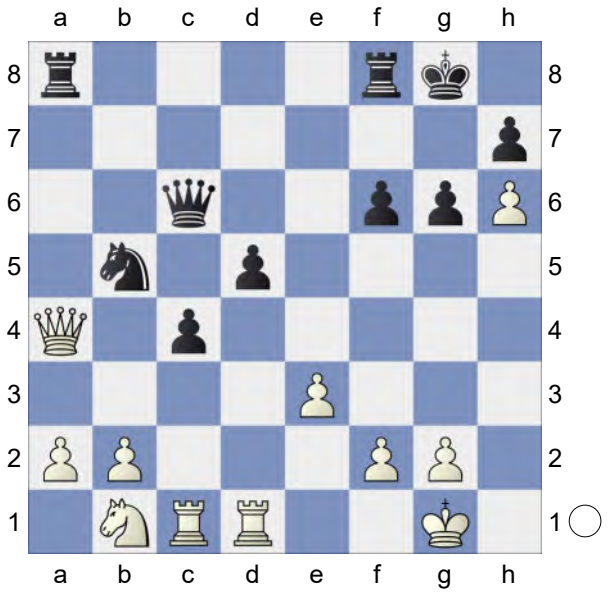


16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.dxc5 bxc5 18.c4 a5 19.cxd5 exd5 20.Rfd1 a4

(Diagram)

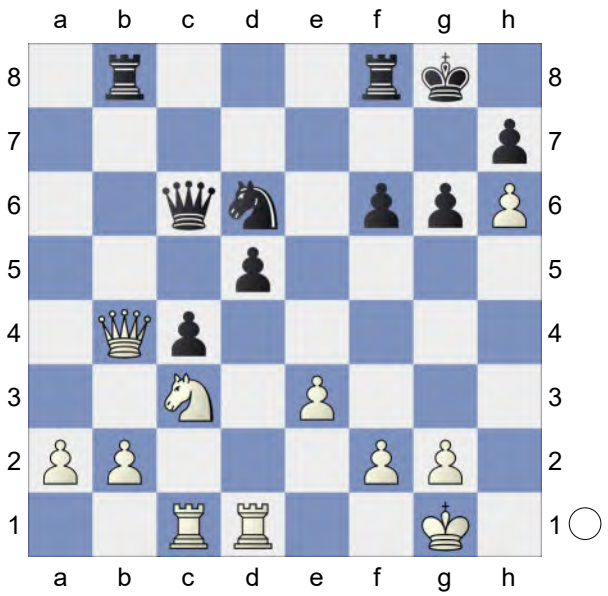


21.Rac1 Rad8 1.15/19
[21...Rfe8± 0.56/17]
22.Nb1± Nb5 1.55/21
[⌓22...Rfe8 1.01/18]
23.Qe2 Qc6 24.Qc2 c4 25.Qxa4 Nc3 is the strong threat. **25...Ra8**

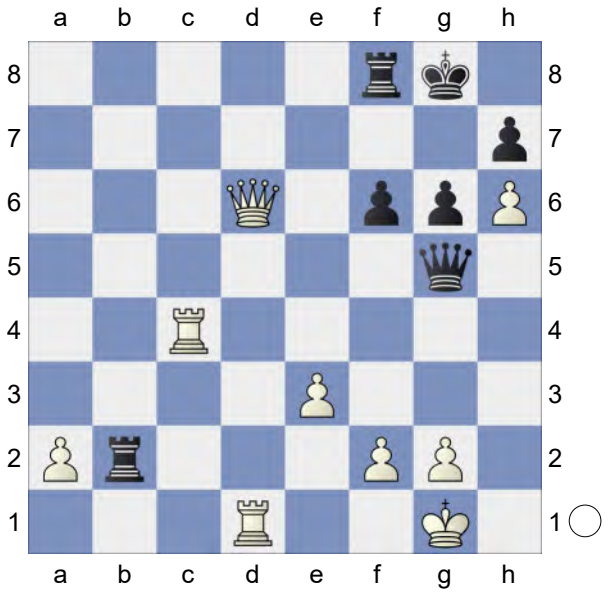


26.Qb4 Nd6? 4.13/23
[26...Rfb8 2.10/22 27.e4 *(27.Qe7 Rb7±)* 27...Nd6 28.exd5 Qd7]
27.Nc3+- Rab8

(Diagram)

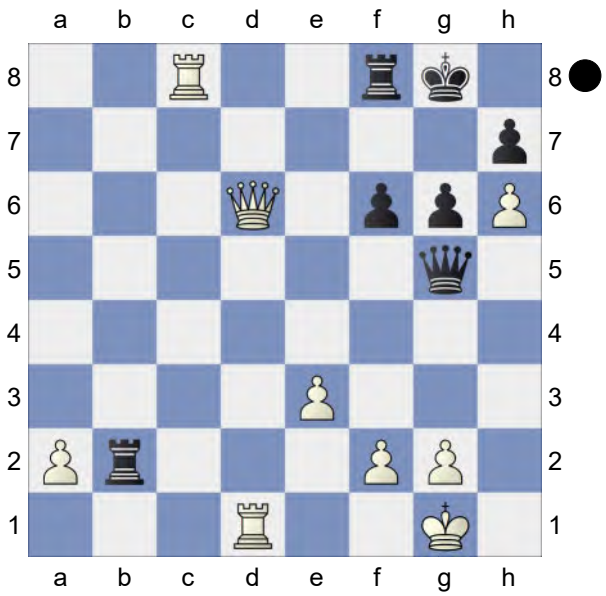


28.Nxd5 Qxd5 29.Qxd6
[Weaker is 29.Rxd5 Rxb4 30.Rxd6 g5+-]
29...Qg5 6.05/21
[⌓29...Qxd6 3.85/21 30.Rxd6 Rxb2 31.Rxc4 Rb7]
30.Rxc4 Rxb2



31.Rc8!!

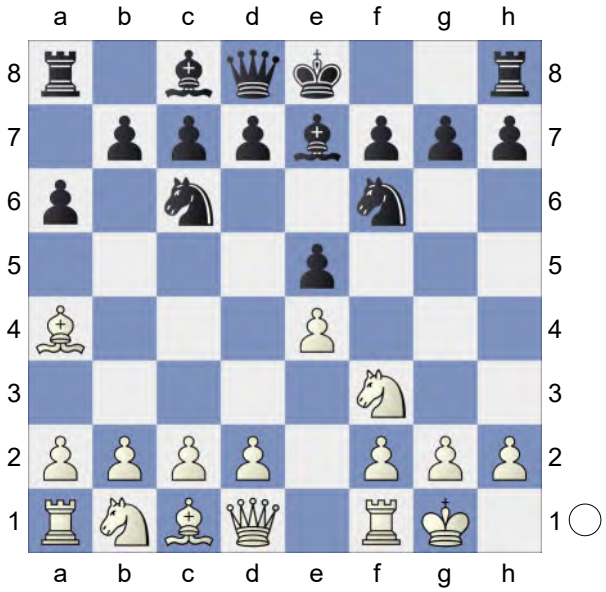
(Diagram)



Black got outplayed after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) / Black=0.70
1-0

22 **C88**
□ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
■ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
Tata Steel Challengers (4.1) 21.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C88: Closed Ruy Lopez: Anti-Marshall Systems **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7**



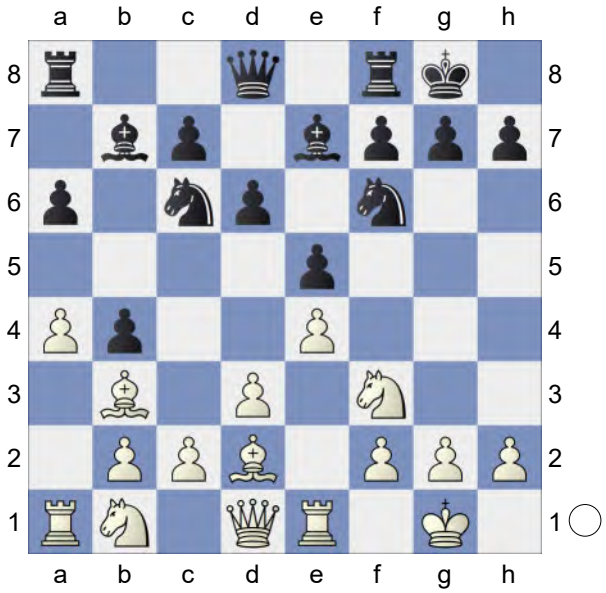
6.Re1

[6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.Nc3 Na5 10.Ba2 Be6 11.b4 Bxa2 12.Rxa2 *(12.Nxa2 Nc6 13.c4 Nd4 14.Nc3 c6 15.Be3 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 Qd7 17.a4 Rfd8 18.Bg5 bxc4 19.dxc4 h6 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 21.Rfd1 Qb7 22.Rab1 Be7 23.g3 Rdc8 24.h4 Rab8 25.a5* S,L (2626)-Wagner,D (2578) Sitges 144/(109) 2019 *)* 12...Nc6 13.Bg5 Nd7 14.Bd2 Nf6 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Nb8 17.c4 Nd7 18.Qb3 f5 19.Rc2 Bf6 20.Be3 g5 Anand,V (2786)-Aronian,L (2854) [GM Dejan Bojkov] 0-1 (38)]

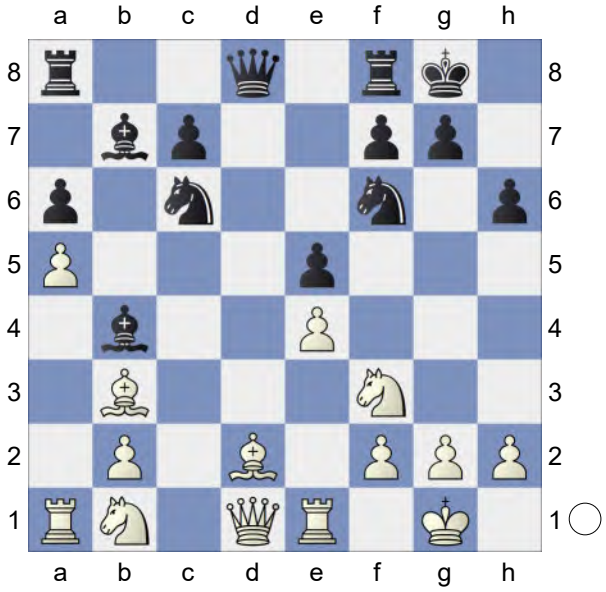
6...b5 7.Bb3 0-0N

[7...d6 8.d4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.c3 dxc3 11.Nxc3 0-0 12.a4 Bb7 13.axb5 axb5 14.Rxa8 Bxa8 15.Bg5 b4 A8) RL – 8th Move Alternati-8th Move Alternatives – 8.]

8.a4 Bb7 9.d3 d6 10.Bd2 b4

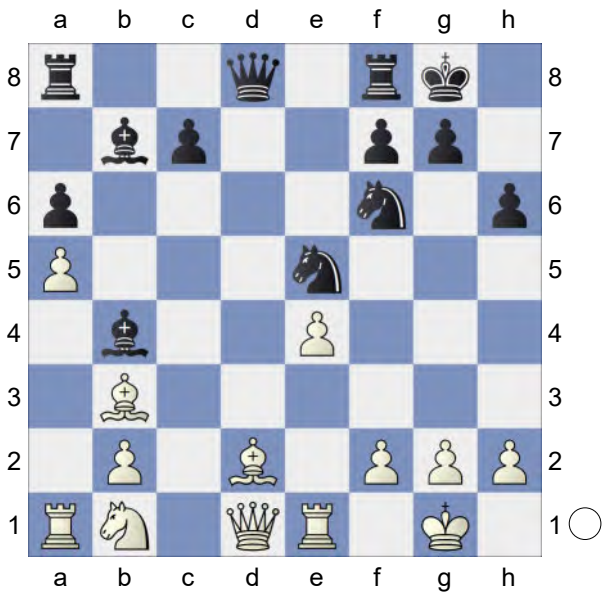


11.a5 h6 12.c3 d5 13.cxb4 dxe4 14.dxe4 Bxb4

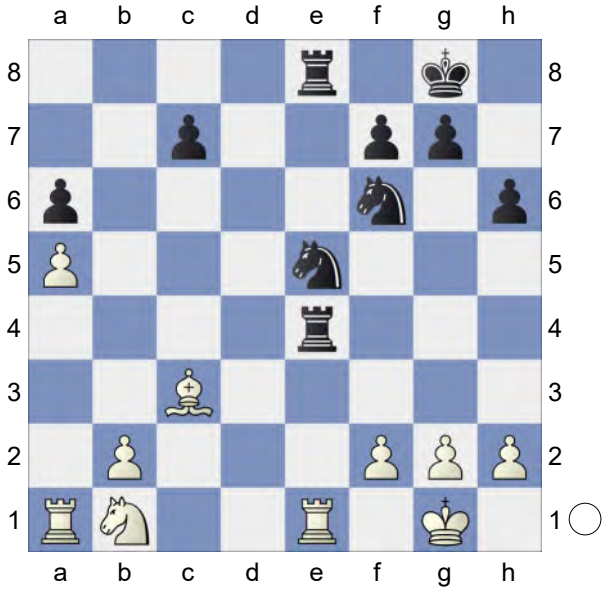


15.Nxe5! Nxe5

(Diagram)

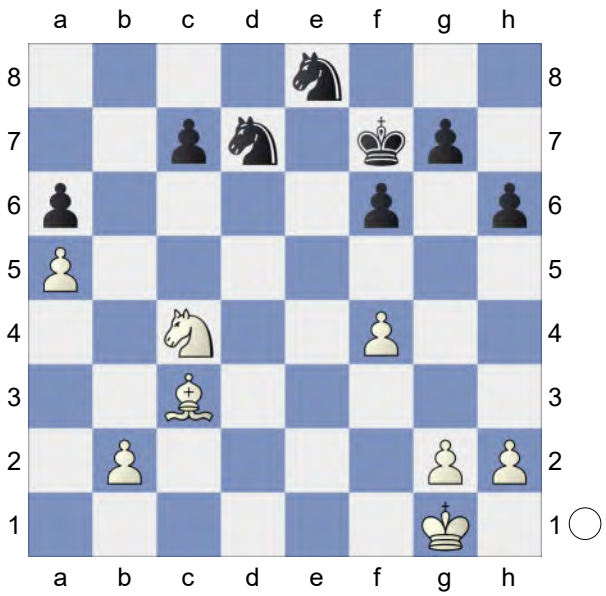


16.Bxb4 Re8 17.Qxd8 0.33/23
[Better is 17.Ba4± 1.06/22]
17...Raxd8± 18.Bc2 Threatening f3. A strong pair of Bishops. **18...Bxe4** Decoy **19.Bxe4 Rd4 20.Bc3 Rxe4**

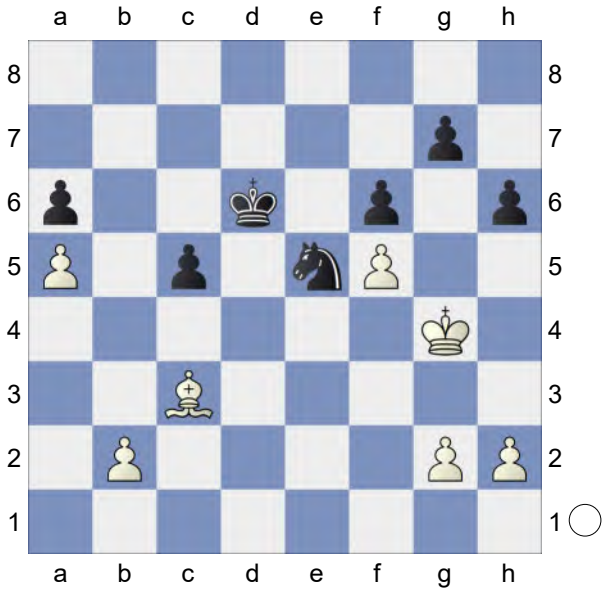


21.Nd2 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Ned7 23.Rxe8+ Nxe8 Endgame KBN-KNN **24.f4 f6 25.Nc4 Kf7**

(Diagram)

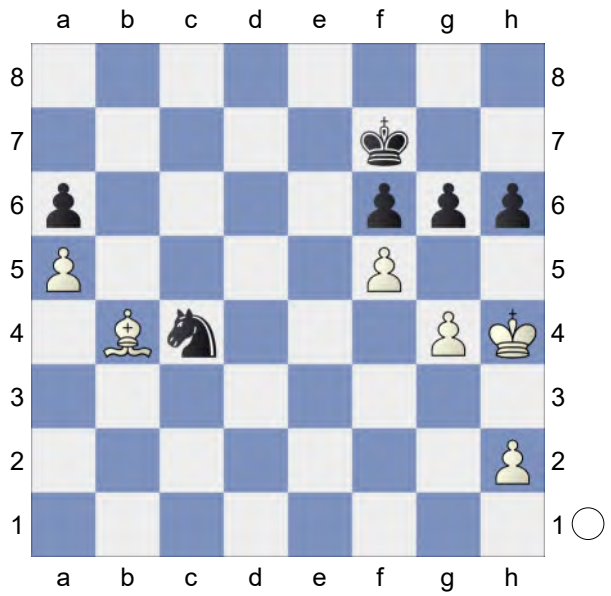


26.f5 Ke7 27.Kf2 Nd6 28.Nxd6 Kxd6= KB-KN **29.Kg3 c5 30.Kg4 Ne5+**

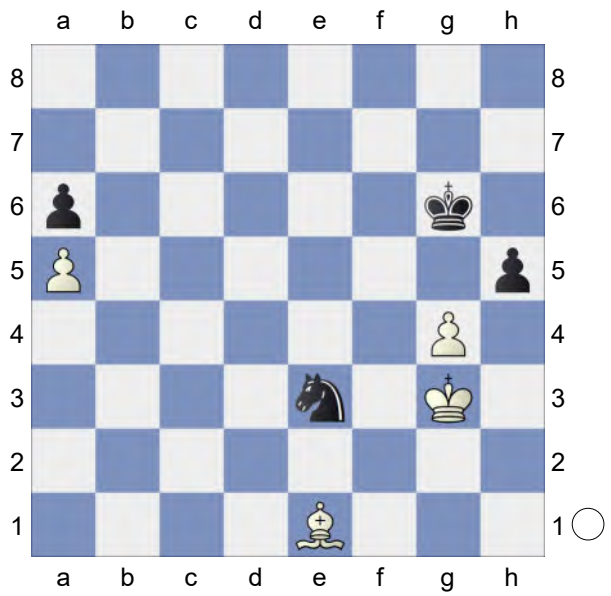


31.Kh5 Ke7! 32.b4 cxb4 33.Bxb4+ Kf7 34.Kh4 Nc4 35.g4 g6

(Diagram)

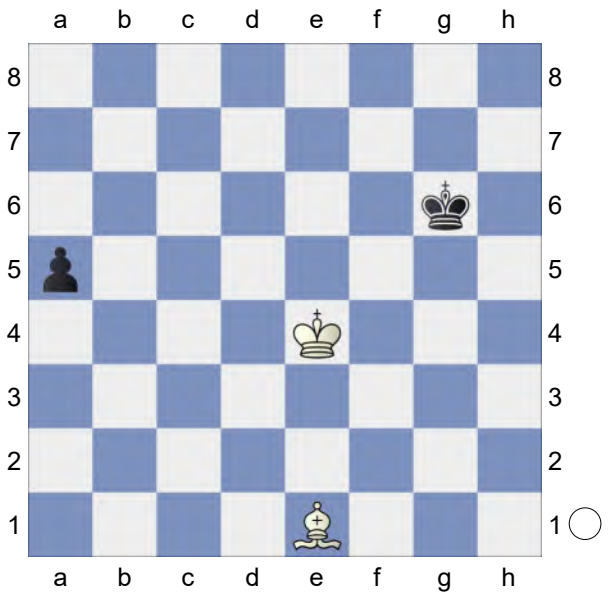


36.fxg6+ Kxg6 37.Be1 Ne3 Strongly threatening ...Ng2+. **38.Kg3** Against Ng2 **38...f5 39.h3 fxg4 40.hxg4 h5**

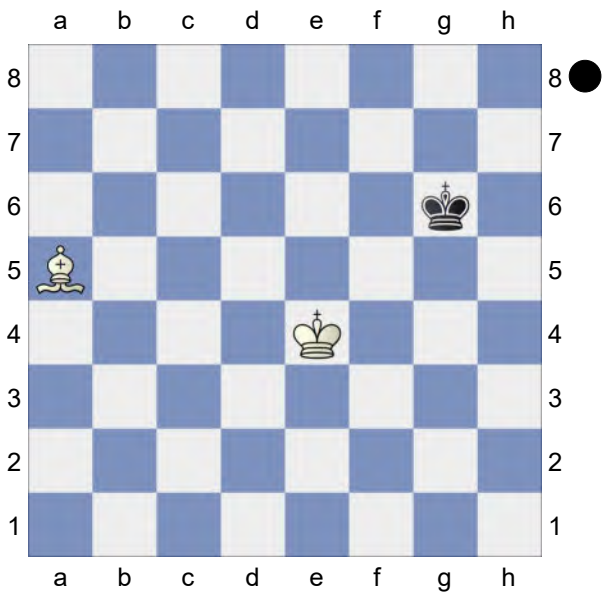


41.gxh5+ Kxh5 42.Kf3 Nc4 43.Ke4 Nxa5 1.24/36 **44.Bxa5± Kg6 45.Be1** 0.45/34
[45.Kd3± 1.23/33]
45...a5!±

(Diagram)



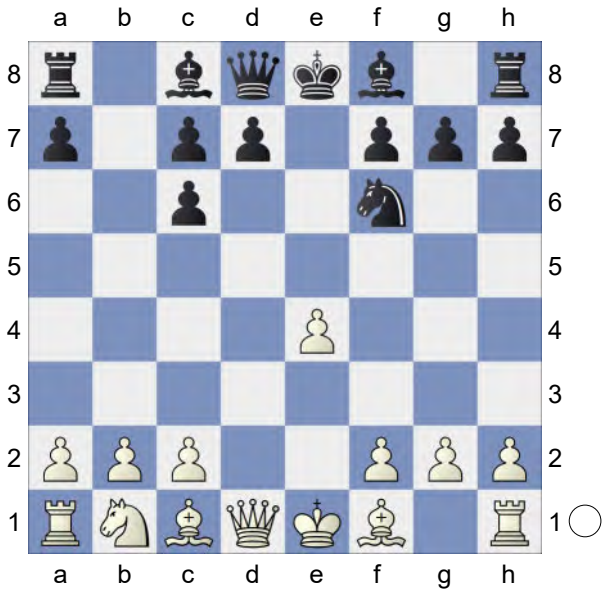
46.Bxa5 0.00/94
[46.Kd3!± 0.37/41 deserves consideration.]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

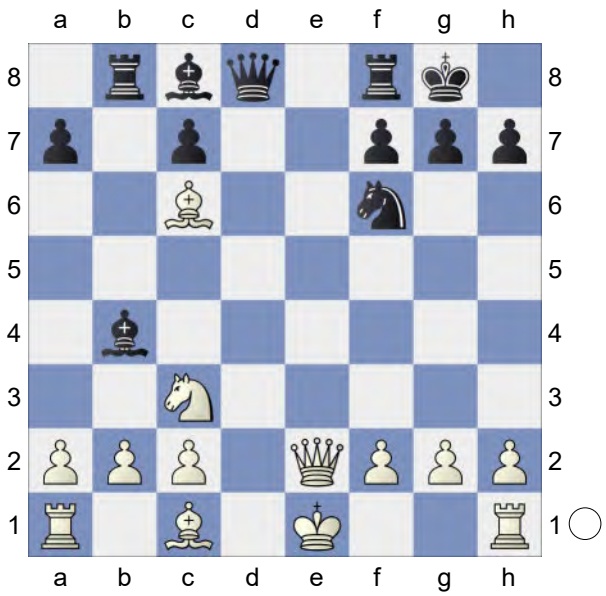
23 **C45**
□ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
■ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
Tata Steel Challengers (4.2) 21.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C45: Scotch Game **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6**

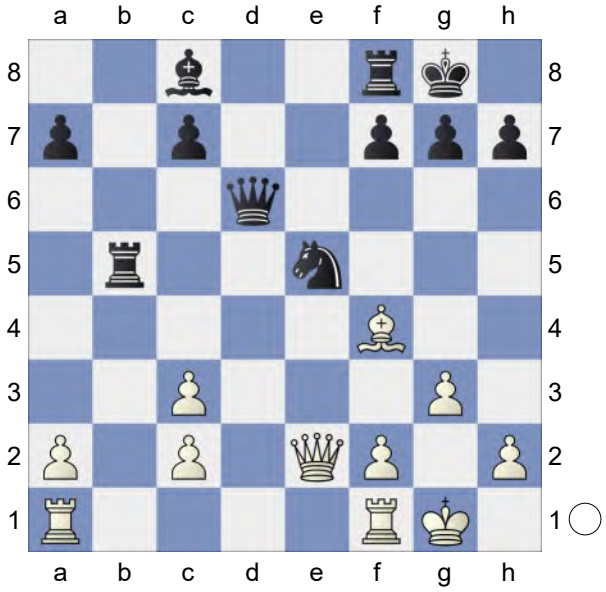


6.Bd3 d5 7.Qe2
[7.e5!? Ng4 8.0-0=]
7...dxe4 White should prevent ...Bg4. **8.Nc3 Bb4** White must now prevent ... Bg4. **9.Bxe4 0-0** The position is equal. **10.Bxc6 Rb8**

(Diagram)

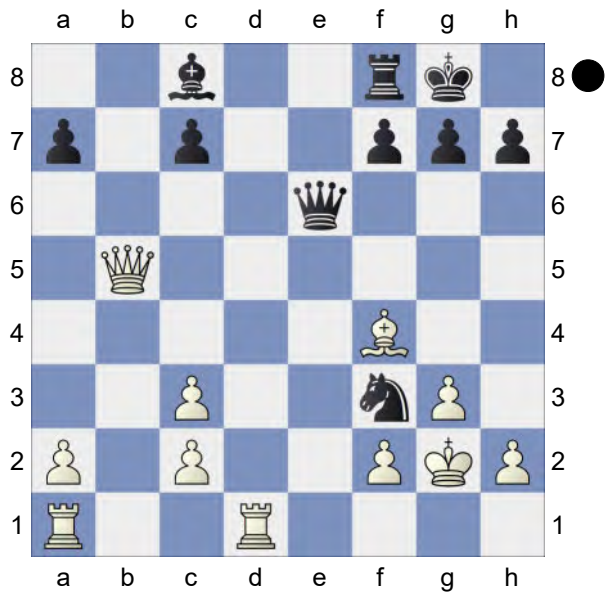


11.0-0 Qd6 aiming for ...Ng4. **12.Bb5**
[12.Bf3 Ba6 13.Qd1 Bxf1 14.Qxf1 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Nd7∓]
12...Ng4! 13.g3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Ne5 15.Bf4! Rxb5

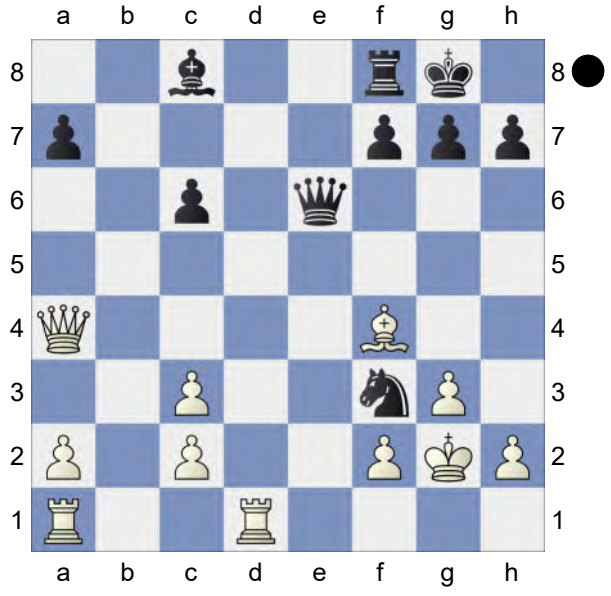


16.Qxb5 Nf3+ 17.Kg2 Qe6 Threatens to win with ...Qe4. **18.Rfd1** -0.37/23
[18.Rad1!= -0.01/23 is more appropriate. Ba6 19.Qd5 Bxf1+ 20.Kxf1 Qh3+ 21.Ke2 Nxh2 22.Kd2]

(Diagram)

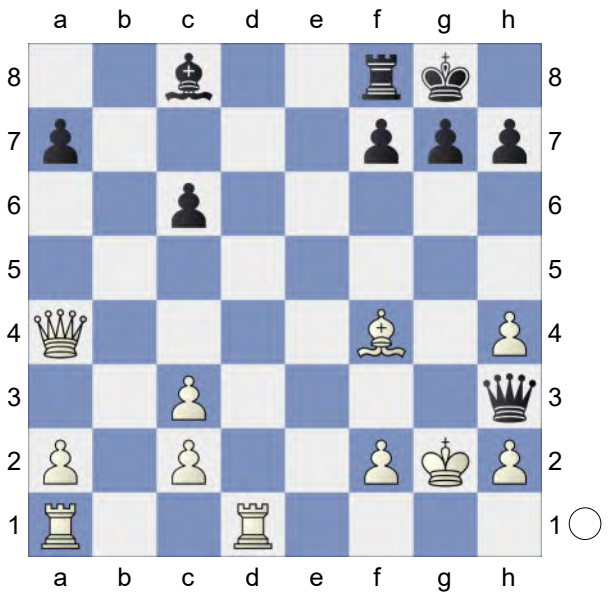


18...c6!∓ 19.Qa4 -0.33/23
[19.Qh5? Qe4! 20.Qxf3 *(20.Kh1? g6-+)* 20...Bh3+! 21.Kxh3 Qxf3-+]
[19.Qb4= -0.01/23 Re8 20.Be3 *(20.Kxf3? c5-+)*]
[19.Qf1 Qh3+]



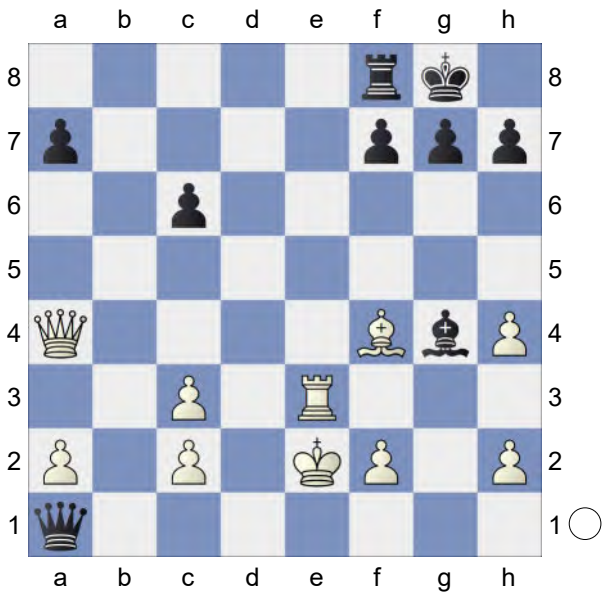
19...Nh4+! 20.gxh4
[20.Kg1 Qh3]
20...Qh3+

(Diagram)

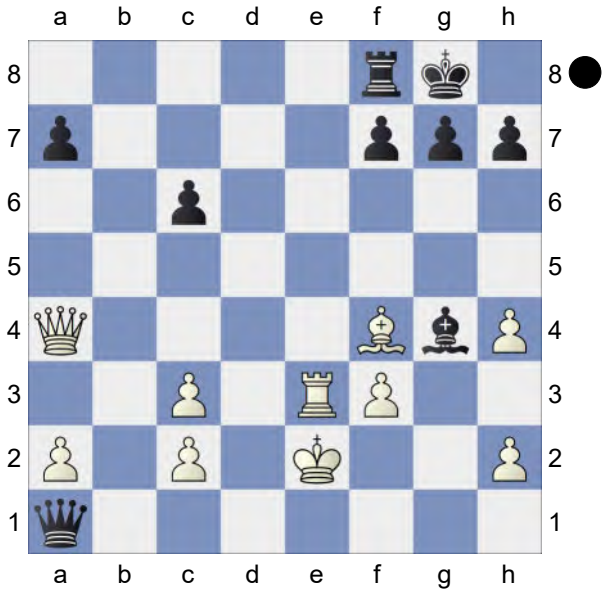


21.Kg1 Qg4+ 22.Kf1
[22.Kh1? Qf3+ 23.Kg1 Bh3 24.Qxc6 Qxc6-+]
22...Qf3 Strongly threatening ...Bg4.
23.Rd3
[Don't go for 23.Qc4? Bg4 24.Ke1 *(24.Kg1? Bh3-+)* 24...Re8+ 25.Kd2 *(25.Be3? Rxe3+ 26.Kd2 Qxf2+ 27.Kc1 Bxd1-+)* 25...Re4 26.Qxe4 Qxe4-+]
23...Qh1+ 24.Ke2 Qxa1 25.Re3
Bd6 is the strong threat.
[25.Bd6 Re8+ 26.Re3 Rxe3+ 27.fxe3 Qxc3 28.Qe4 Be6 29.a3 h5 30.Kd1 Bg4+ 31.Kc1 Qa1+ 32.Kd2 Qd1+ 0-1 (31) 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 (2683)-Storme,I (2608) Stary Smokovec 2017 200 Traps In The Opening [Grob NZZ-3 p17 FSZ#721]]
25...Bg4+N
[25...Qb1 26.Qe4 Bg4+ 27.f3 Be6 28.a3 Bd5 29.Qd3 Qa2 30.Kf2 h6 31.c4 Bxc4 32.Qc3 f6 The Scotch Game-9...0-0/13...Bc3 _2486 2022 [Szabo,Krisztian] (32)]

(Diagram)



26.f3



Be6

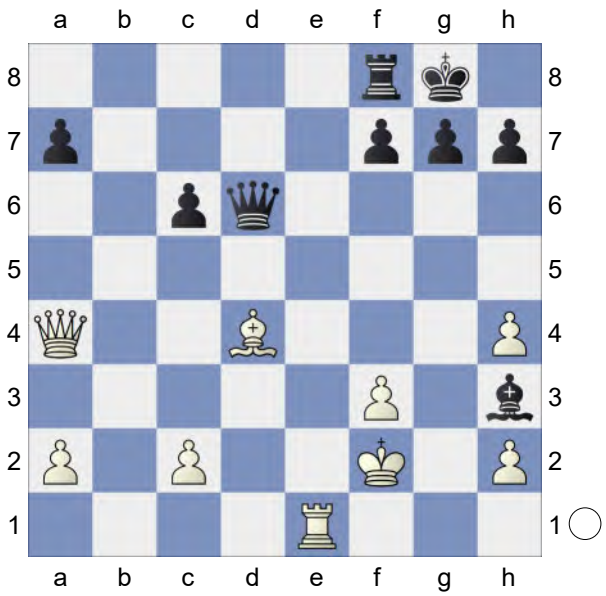
[Don't play 26...Bh3?! 27.Kd2=]

27.Kf2 Bh3 -0.36/22

[Better is 27...h6∓ -0.74/18]

28.Re1 Qxc3 29.Be5 Qc5+ 30.Bd4 Qd6

(Diagram)

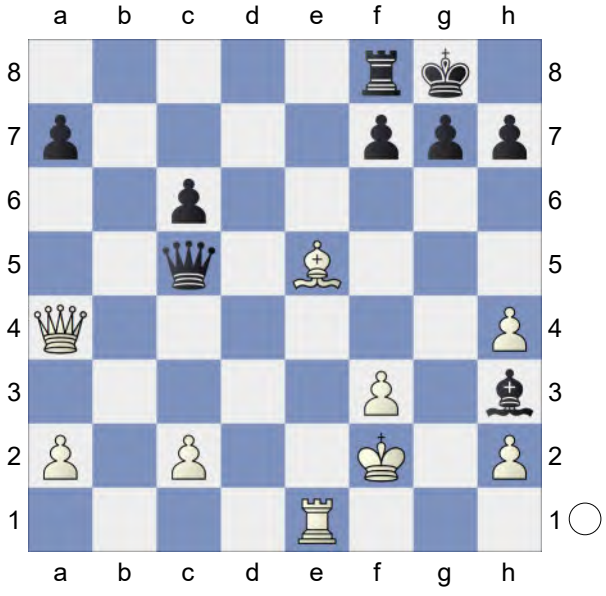


31.Be5 Qc5+ 0.01/18

[31...Qd2+∓ -0.37/21 32.Re2 Qc1]

32.Bd4!= Qd6 33.Be5 Active counter play! **33...Qc5+** -0.01/27

[33...Qh6∓ -0.47/21 might be stronger.]

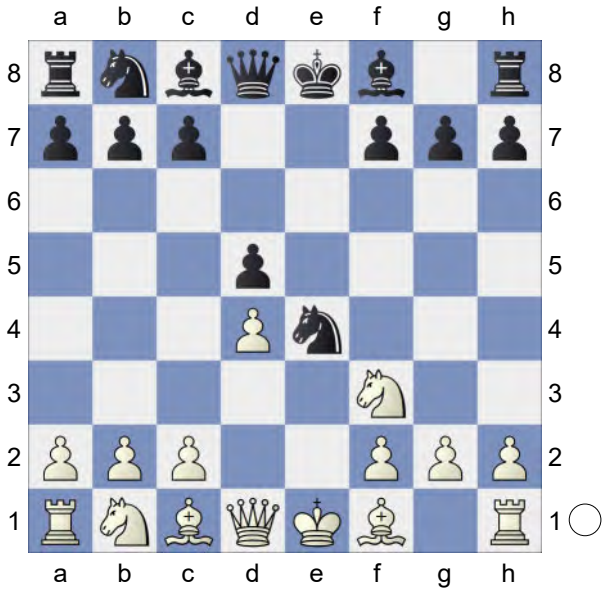


Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

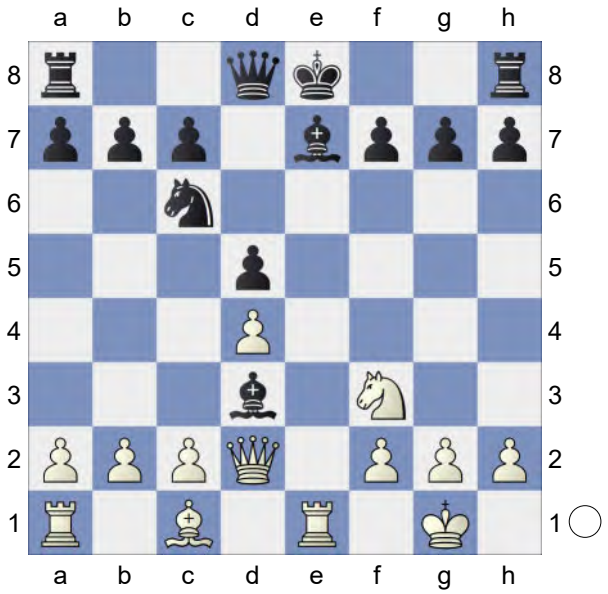
½-½

24 **C42**
□ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
■ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
Tata Steel Challengers (4.3) 21.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5**

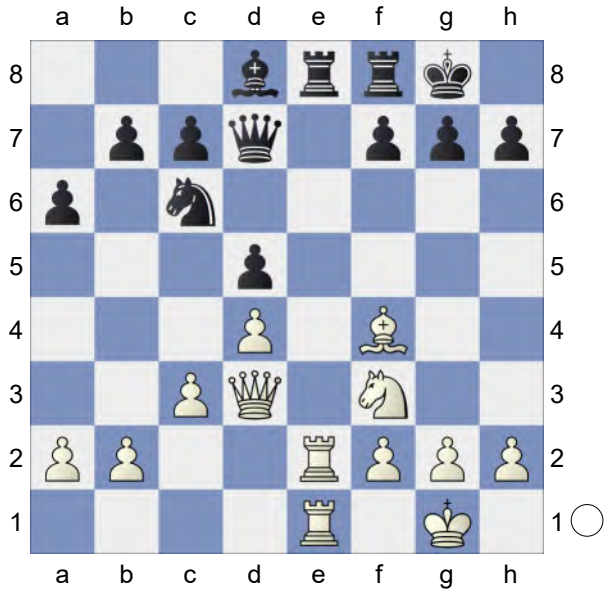


6.Bd3 Bf5 7.0-0 Be7 8.Re1 Nc6 9.Nbd2 Nxd2 10.Qxd2 Bxd3



11.Qxd3 0-0 12.c3 Qd7 13.Bf4 a6

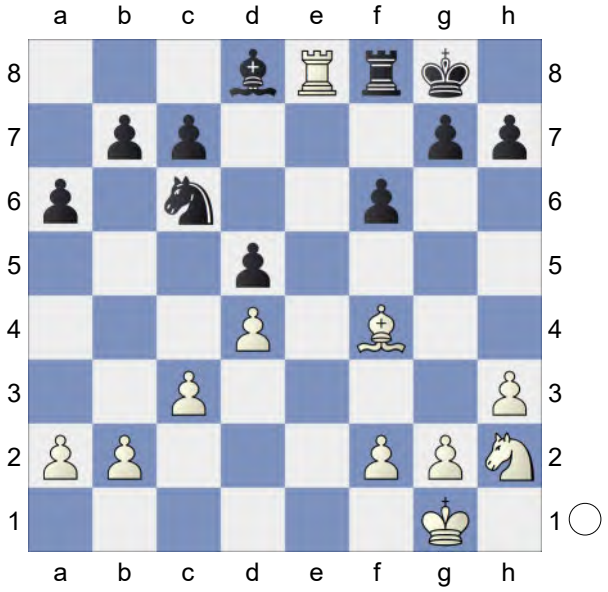
14.Re2
[14.Re3 Rae8 15.Rae1 Bd8 16.h3 Rxe3 17.Rxe3 f6 18.Re2 Rf7 19.Nd2 Be7 20.Nf1 Bf8 21.Qf3 Re7 22.Ne3 Nd8 23.Bxc7 Qxc7 24.Nxd5 Qd6 25.Nxe7+ Bxe7 26.Qe4 Bf8 27.Qe8 g6 28.a4 Kg7 10.Kb1 b5 11. c5_7382 (2625)-11.Bd2_10022 (2690) Subotica 1981 Mega2014 Update 23 [FS 106] ½-½ (41)]
[14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 f6 16.Bg3 Rfe8 17.Re2 Bf8 18.Rae1 Petroff Defence-11.Qd3 0-0 12.c3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Jussupow, Ftacnik]]
14...Rae8 15.Rae1 Bd8



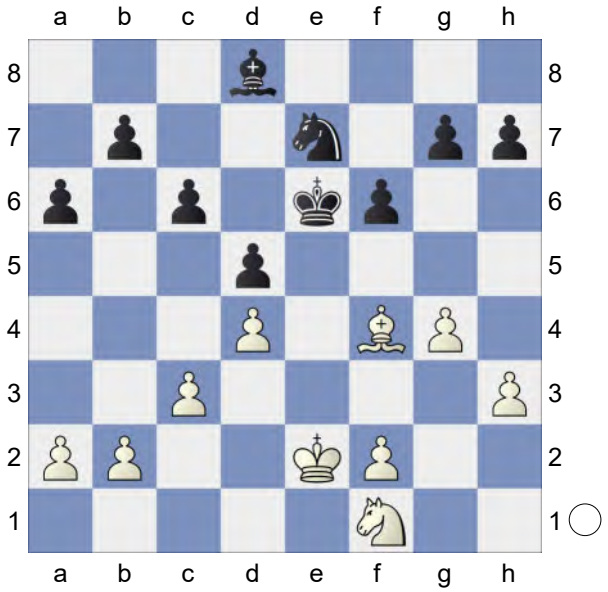
16.h3N &Bianco is more active. White is slightly better.
[16.h4 Rxe2 17.Qxe2 f6 18.Nd2 Rf7 *(18...a5 19.Nb3 b6 20.Na1 Rf7 21.Qb5 Ne5 22.Qxd7 Nxd7 23.Nc2* Petroff Defense-Petroff Nc6*)* 19.Nb3 Re7 20.Be3 Chapter 17: Petroff: 5.d4 d5 -B6]
[16.Nd2 Rxe2 17.Qxe2 a5 18.Nb3 b6 19.Nc1 f6 20.a4 Ne7 21.Nd3 g5 22.Bc1 Ng6 23.b3 Be7 24.h4 gxh4 25.Nf4 Rf7 26.Qe6 Qxe6 27.Rxe6

Nxf4 28.Bxf4 Bd8 29.b4 Kg7 30.bxa5 bxa5 Chapter Part-Games Game 8 (83)]

16...Rxe2 17.Qxe2 f6 18.Nh2 Rf7 19.Qe8+ Qxe8 20.Rxe8+ The position is equal. **20...Rf8**

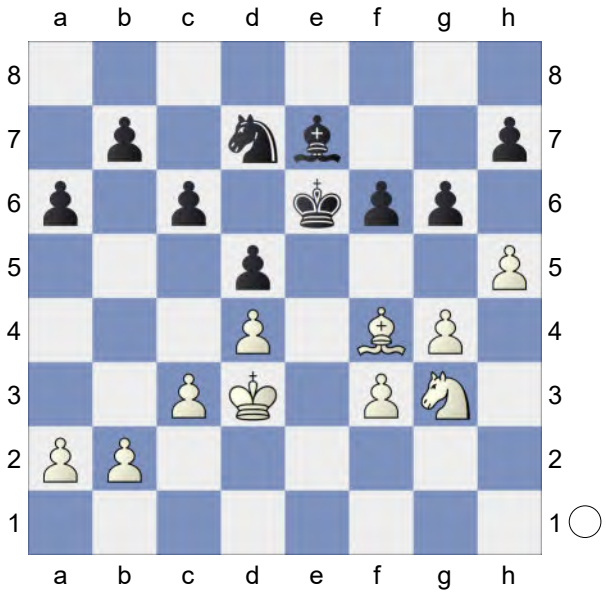


21.Rxf8+ Kxf8= Endgame KBN-KBN **22.g4 Kf7 23.Kf1 Ke6 24.Ke2 Ne7 25.Nf1 c6**



26.Ng3 g6 27.f3 Nc8 28.Kd3 Nb6 29.h4 Nd7 30.h5 Be7

(Diagram)

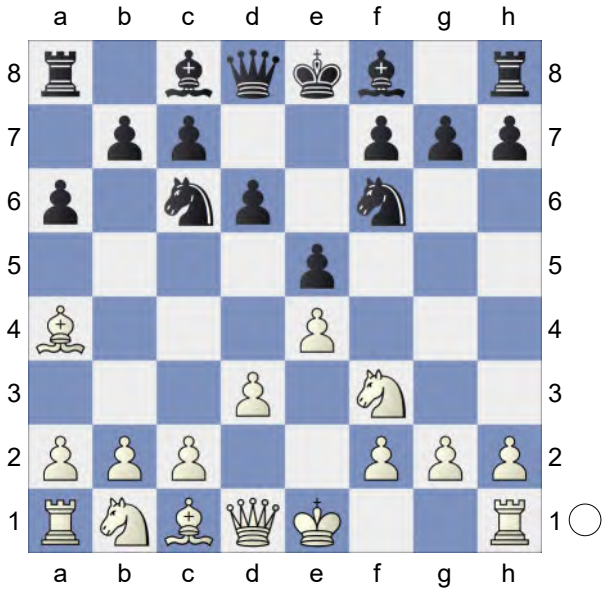


Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

½-½

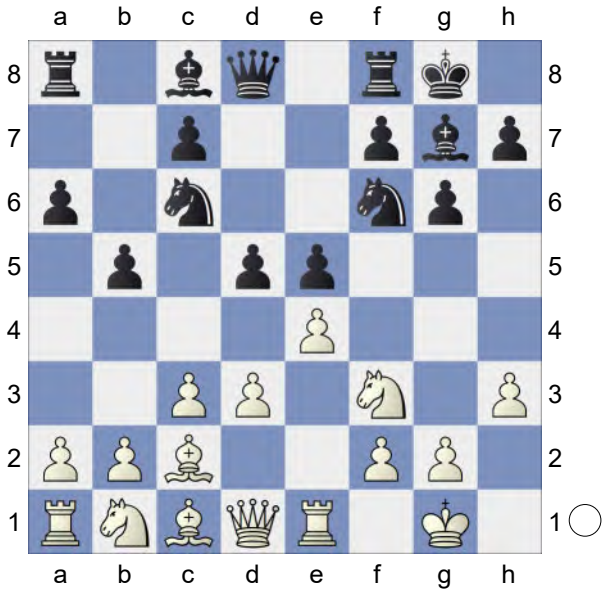
25 **C77**
□ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
■ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
Tata Steel Challengers (4.4) 21.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C77: Ruy Lopez: 3...a6 4 Ba4 Nf6, unusual lines **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 d6**

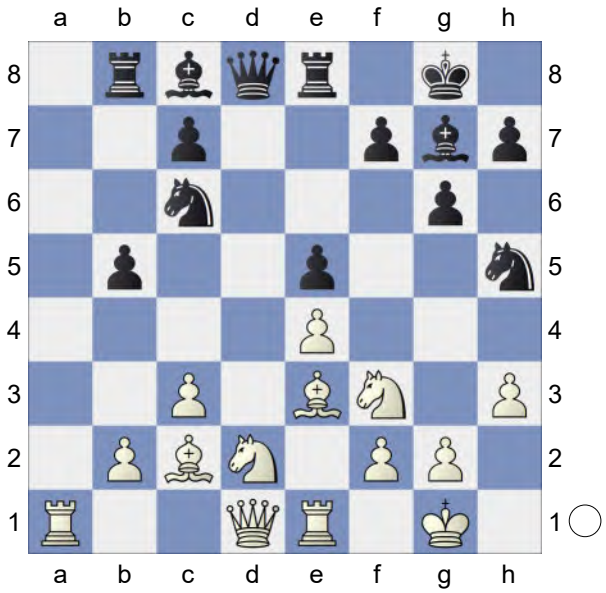


6.c3 g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Re1 0-0 9.h3 b5
[9...h6 10.a3 b5 11.Bc2 d5 12.Be3 a5 13.Nbd2 Re8 14.Qc1 Kh7 15.d4 dxe4 16.Nxe4 Bf5 17.Nc5 exd4 18.cxd4 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Qd5 20.Rac1 Nh5 21.Qb3 Rad8 22.Qxd5 Rxd5 23.Na6 Rd6 24.Nxc7 16.Na4 Qb5 17.a3 Nb8 (2624)-Dorin,M (2200) Banjaluka 27/362 2022 ICCF 2019 [John Watson] 1-0 (31)]
10.Bc2 d5N
[10...Bb7 11.Nbd2 *(11.a4 b4 12.a5 bxc3 13.bxc3 Na7 14.Na3 Nb5 15.Bd2* 22. Alternative: Anderssen V, 5-6...g6 7.O-O Bg7 8.Re1 O-O 9.*)* 11...Re8 12.a4 Nb8 13.b4 c5 14.bxc5 dxc5 15.Rb1 Bc6 16.Bb2 Nh5 17.g3 Bd7 18.h4 Nc6

Kavakul,M (2731)-Osnos,V (2772) World Ch Match 2013 Telechess CBM 89 [Hunter; FS]]

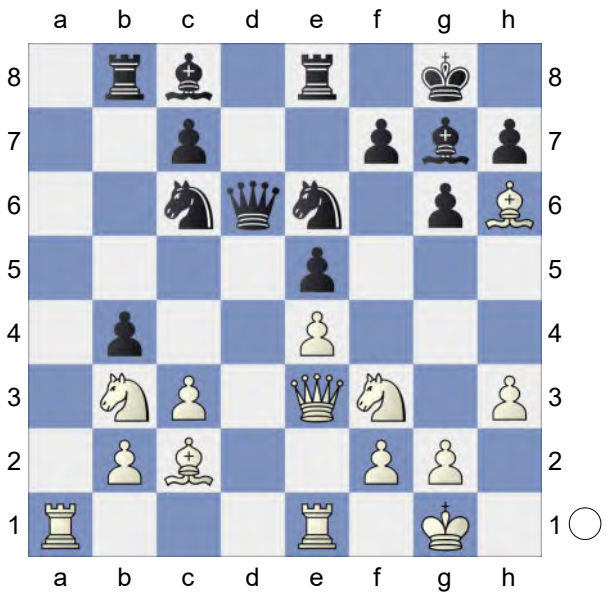


11.Be3 Re8 12.Nbd2 dxe4 0.68/20
[12...a5= 0.19/17]
13.dxe4± Nh5 14.a4 Threatens to win with axb5. **14...Rb8 15.axb5 axb5**

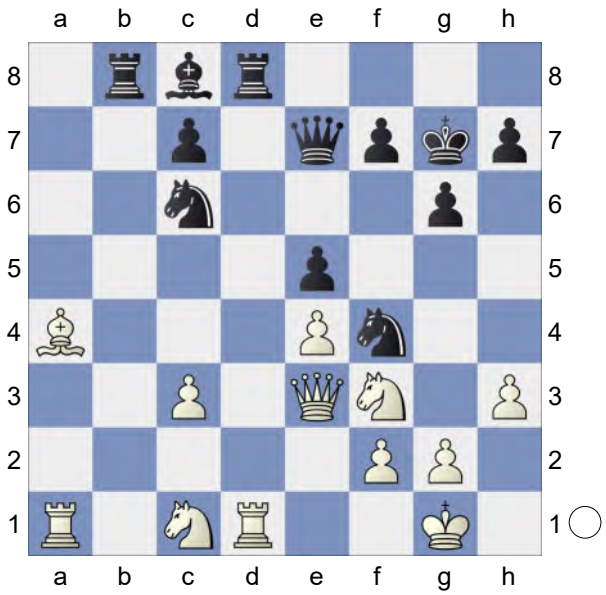


16.Nb3 Qf6 17.Bg5 Qd6 18.Qc1 Nf4 19.Qe3 Ne6 20.Bh6 b4

(Diagram)

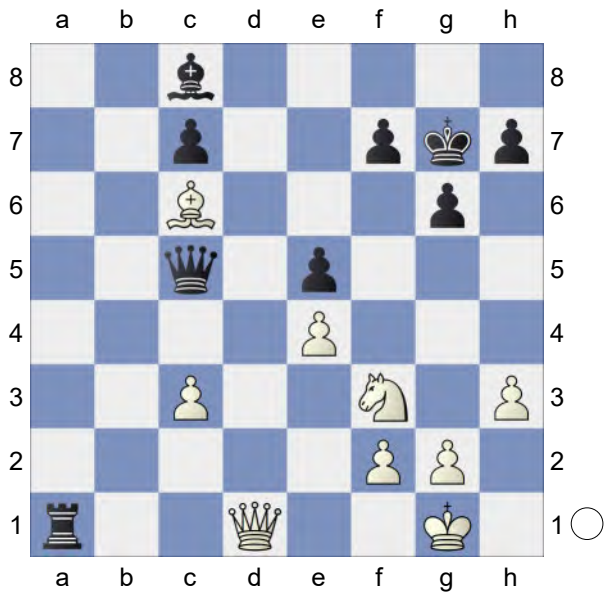


21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Red1 Qe7 23.Nc1 bxc3 24.bxc3 Nf4 25.Ba4 Rd8

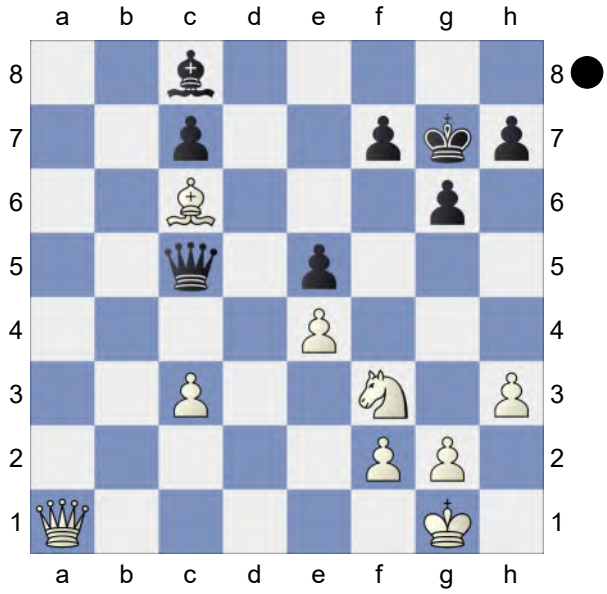


26.Nd3
[26.Ne2!? Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 Nxe2+ 28.Qxe2=]
26...Nxd3 27.Rxd3 -0.35/22
[27.Bxc6= -0.01/21 Rd6 28.Bd5 *(28.Rxd3 Rxc6 29.g4 f6∓)*]
27...Rxd3 28.Qxd3 The position is equal. **28...Ra8 29.Qd1 Qc5 30.Bxc6 Rxa1**

(Diagram)



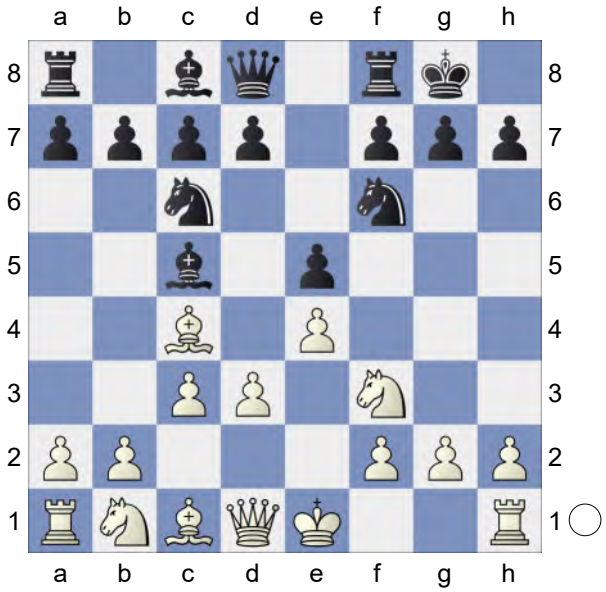
31.Qxa1



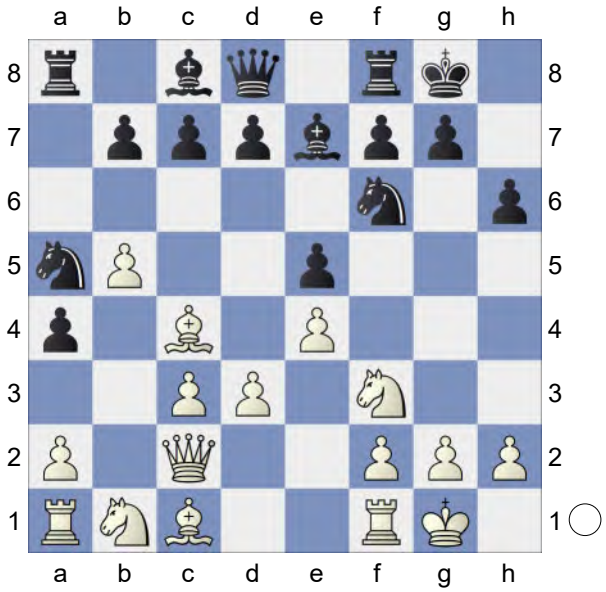
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

26 **C53**
□ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
■ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
Tata Steel Challengers (4.5) 21.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 0-0**

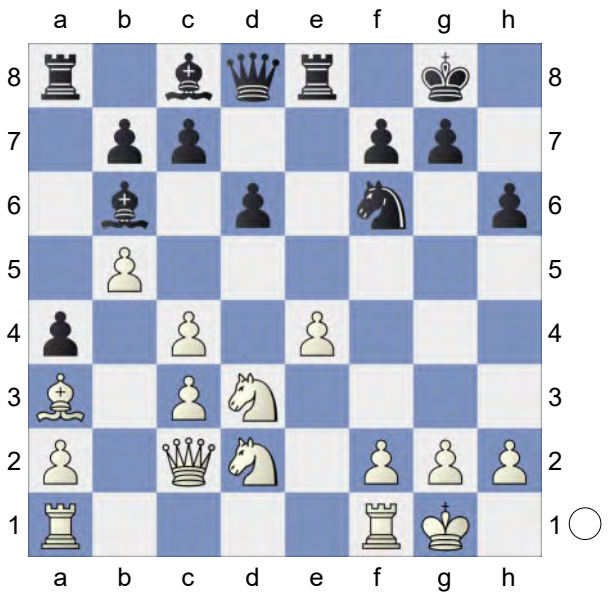


6.0-0 h6 7.b4
[7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bb3 d6 9.Re1 Bg4 10.h3 Bd7 11.Nf1 Nh5 12.d4 exd4 13.g4 Nf6 14.cxd4 Bb6 15.Ng3 Nh7 16.Be3 Ne7 17.Qd2 Ng6 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.gxf5 Nh4 20.Nh2 Ng5 21.Bxg5 hxg5 6... Bb6 7... Ne4 11.... h6! (2200)-Smith,V (1854) Jugoslavija 81/403 2014 The Benko Gambit: MBM [Budovskis, Latvian CC mag 5/95 p20] 1-0 (32)]
[7.Re1 d6 8.h3 a6 9.Bb3 Na5 10.Bc2 Ba7 11.Nbd2 c5 12.Nf1 b5 13.Ng3 Nc6 14.Nh2 c4 15.Qf3 cxd3 16.Bxd3 b4 17.Nhf1 bxc3 18.bxc3 Na5 19.Ne3 Bxe3 20.Bxe3 Be6 21.Nf5 Bxf5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd2 Bg4_3395 (1262)-3.Nf3 Bc3 4.dc3 Nc6_275 (1361) corr LSS 2023 Schlechter-Tarrasch [John Watson] ½-½]
7...Be7 8.Qb3N
[8.Bb2 a6 *(8...d6 9.a4* #3 2) Italian - Fast & Furious-3...Bc5 4.d3 h6 *)* 9.a4 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.b5 Na5 12.Bxd5 Qxd5 13.c4 Qd8 14.Nxe5 #2 Italian Fast Furious-3... Bc5 4.d3 h6]
8...a5 9.b5 a4 The position is equal.
10.Qc2 Na5

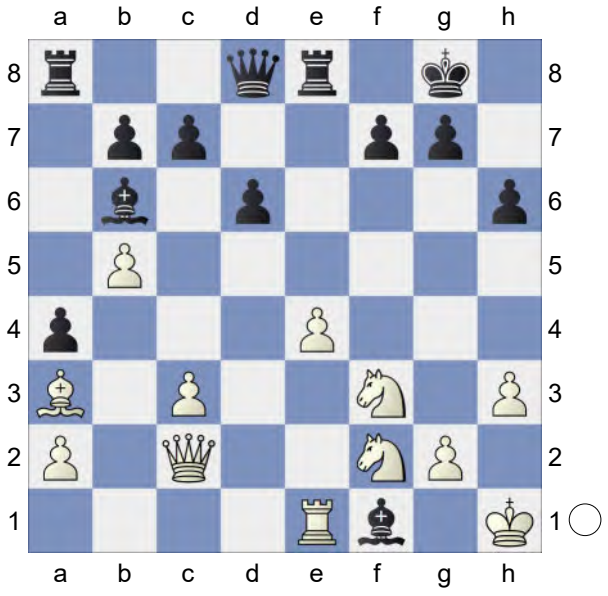


11.Nxe5 Nxc4 12.dxc4 Bc5 13.Nd2 d6 14.Nd3 Bb6 15.Ba3 Re8

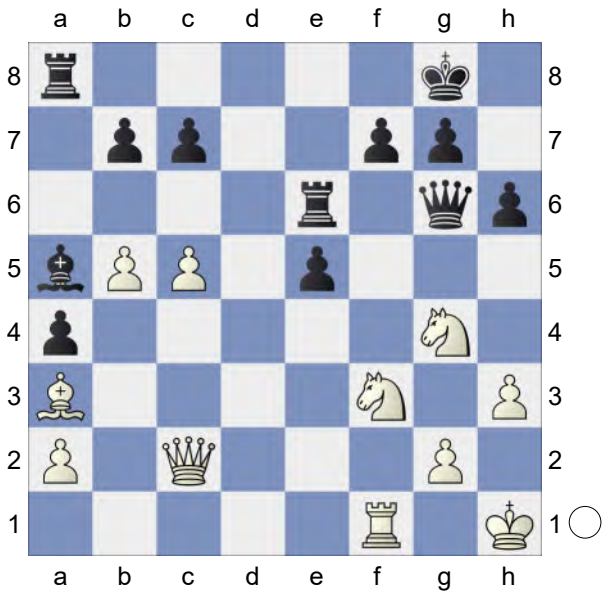
(Diagram)



16.Rae1 Ng4 0.44/19
[16...Nh5= 0.01/19
is more appropriate.]
17.Nf3± Be6 18.h3 Nxf2 0.86/21
[18...Nf6± 0.32/20]
19.Nxf2 0.38/19
[19.Rxf2± 0.86/21 aiming for c5.
Bxf2+ 20.Nxf2]
19...Bxc4 20.Kh1 Bxf1

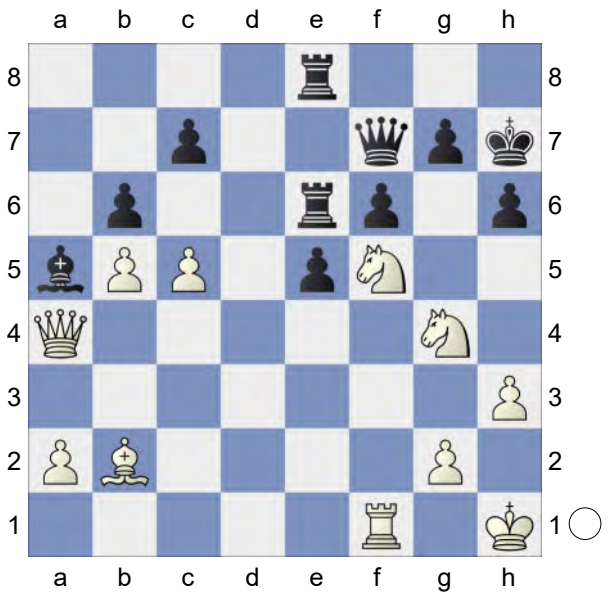


21.Rxf1 Qf6! 22.c4 Re6 1.15/22
White now steadily converts the win.
[22...Qg6!± 0.43/20]
23.e5 dxe5 24.c5↑ White is in control.
&Bianco is more active. **24...Ba5**
25.Ng4 White has strong compensation.
25...Qg6 1.93/21
[25...Qe7± 1.19/20]

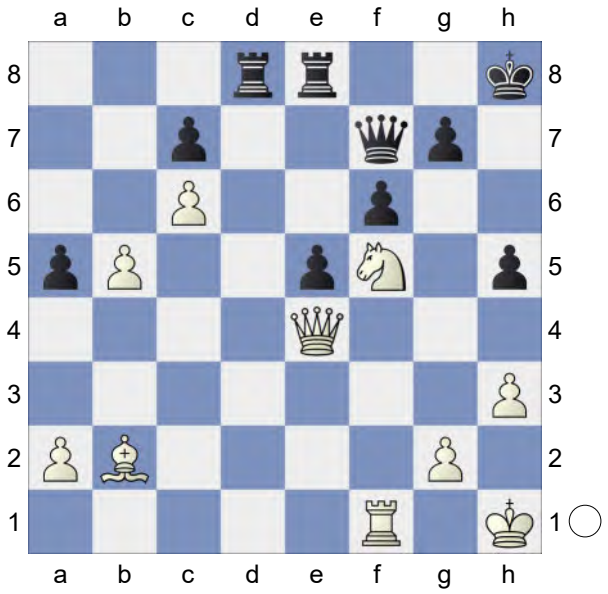


26.Qc4+-
[26.Qxa4?! Qd3 27.Rd1 Qe2±]
[26.Qxg6 fxg6 27.Ngxe5 *(27.Nfxe5? h5-+)* 27...Bc3∓]
26...Rae8 1.87/20
[26...Ree8± 1.34/23]
27.Bb2
[27.Qxa4?! Bc3±]
27...f6 28.Nh4
[Don't take 28.Qxa4?! b6±]
28...Qf7 29.Nf5 Kh7 2.71/21
[⌓29...Bd2 1.62/21]
30.Qxa4 b6

(Diagram)

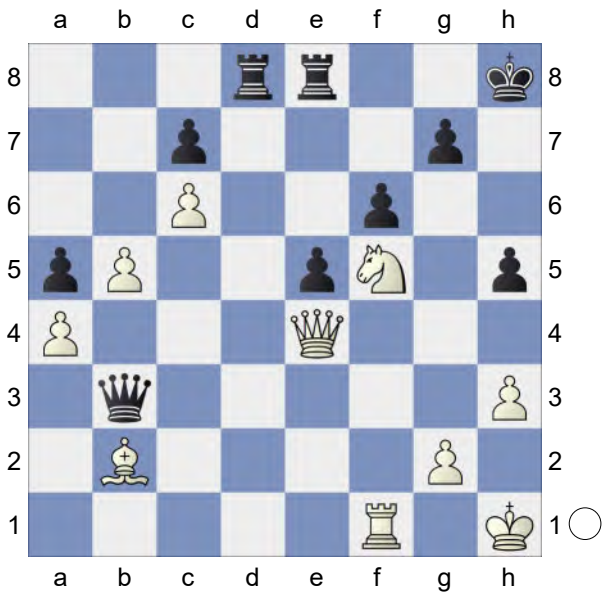


31.Qe4 Threatens to win with Nfxh6+.
31...Kh8 3.91/20
[⌓31...g6 2.53/21 32.Nfxh6 Qe7]
32.c6 h5 33.Nge3 Rd8 34.Nc4 Ree8 35.Nxa5 bxa5

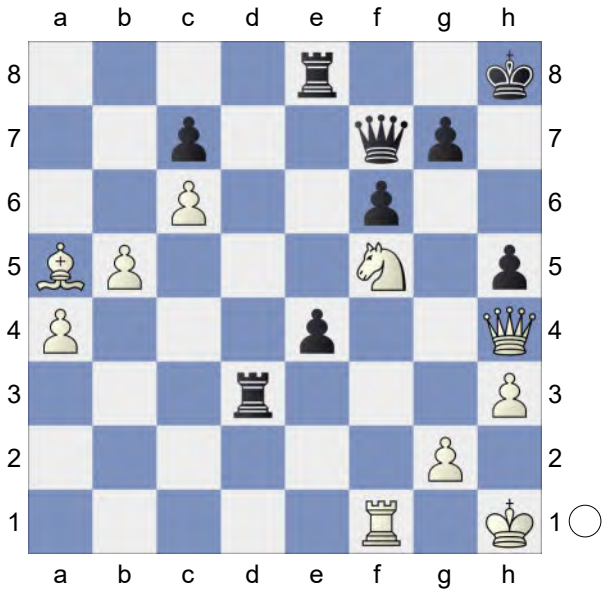


36.a4 Qb3

(Diagram)

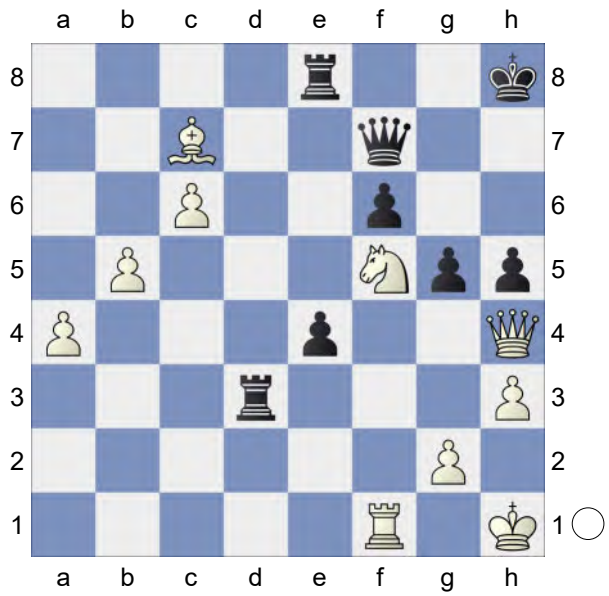


37.Qh4! White is clearly winning.
37...Qf7
[37...Qxb2 leads to mate. 38.Qxh5+ Kg8 39.Qg6]
38.Bc3 Rd3 39.Bxa5 e4

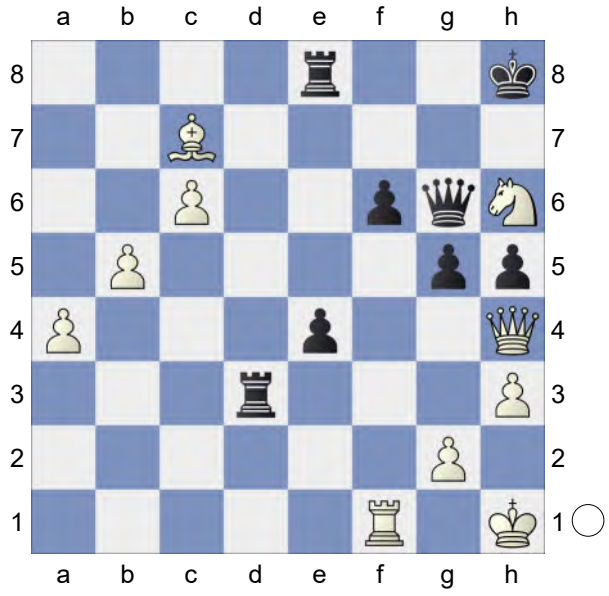


40.Bxc7! g5

(Diagram)



41.Nh6! Qg6

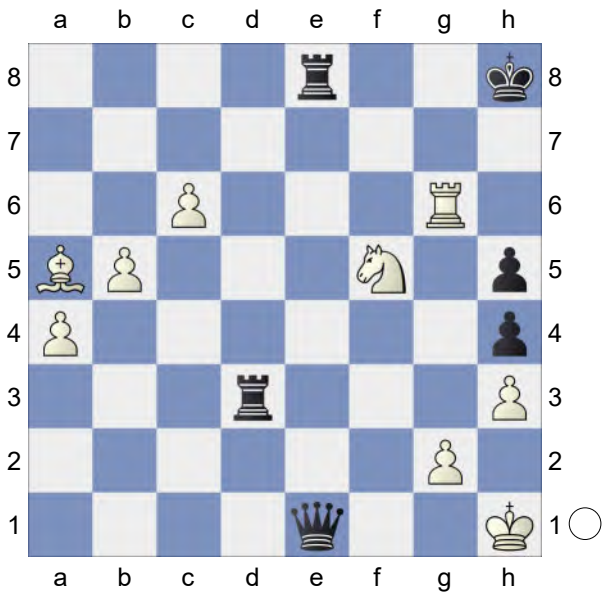


42.Rxf6!! gxh4

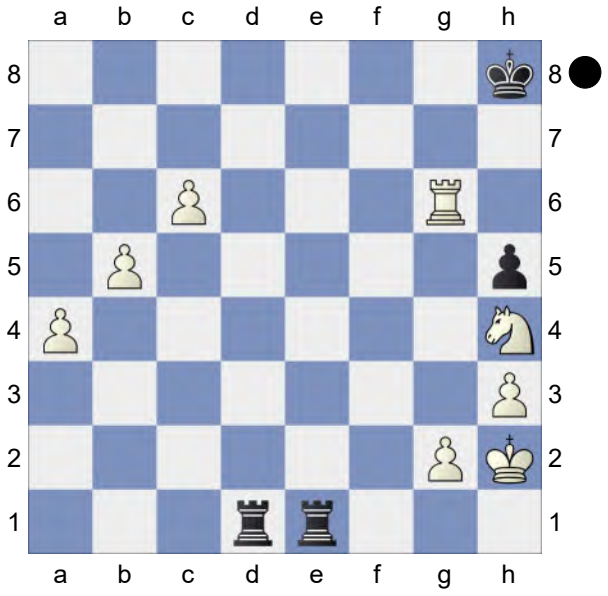
[42...Qxf6 43.Qxh5]

43.Rxg6 e3 44.Nf5 e2 45.Ba5 e1Q+

(Diagram)



46.Bxe1 Rxe1+ 47.Kh2 Rdd1 48.Nxh4

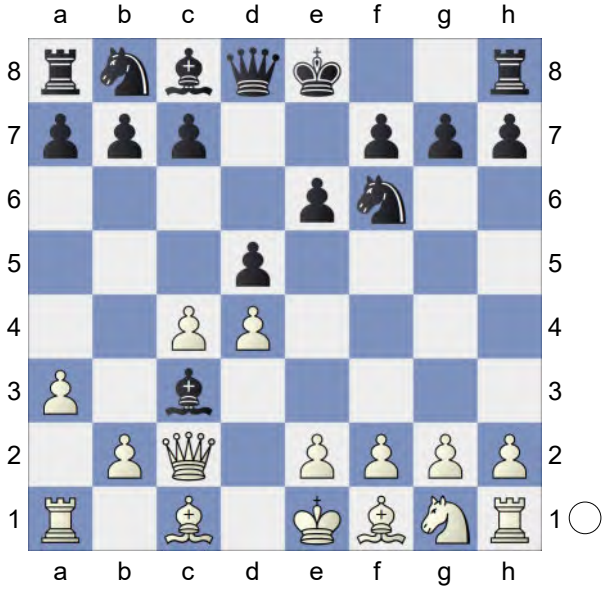


Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.28 (precise)

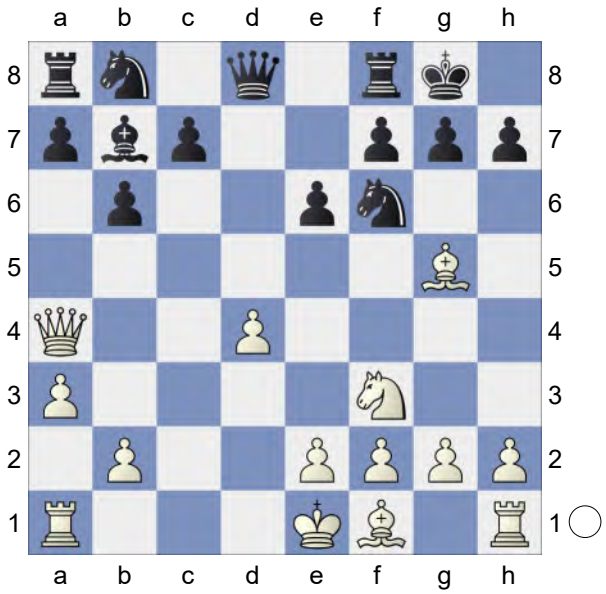
1-0

27 **E36**
□ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
■ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
Tata Steel Challengers (4.6) 21.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

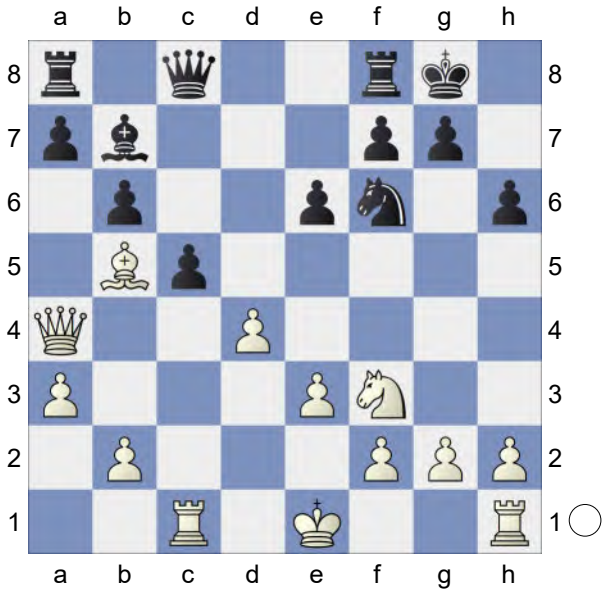
E36: Nimzo-Indian: Classical: 4...d5 5 a3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+



6.Qxc3 0-0 7.Nf3 b6 8.Bg5N
[8.e3 Bb7 9.b3 *(9.b4 c5 10.dxc5 Ne4 11.Qc2 bxc5 12.cxd5 Qxd5 13.Bc4 Qh5* Nimzo 4 Qc2 0-0 5 a3 Bxc3+-6 Qxc3 d5: Introduction ChessPub Guide 2023 Nimzo & Benoni [John Emms]*)* 9...Nbd7 10.Be2 c5 11.0-0 Rc8 Quickstarter Guide-Classical Variation 4.Qc2 d5 12.a4 dxc4 13.bxc4 Qc7 14.Rd1 Rfd8 15.Bb2 cxd4 16.exd4 Qf4 17.Qe3 Qxe3 18.fxe3 a5 19.Nd2 Ne4 20.Nxe4 Bxe4 Carlsen,M (2772)-Bacrot,E (2721) Dortmund 2009 Cl1-130 [RR]]
8...dxc4 9.Qxc4 Ba6 The position is equal. **10.Qa4 Bb7**
(Diagram)

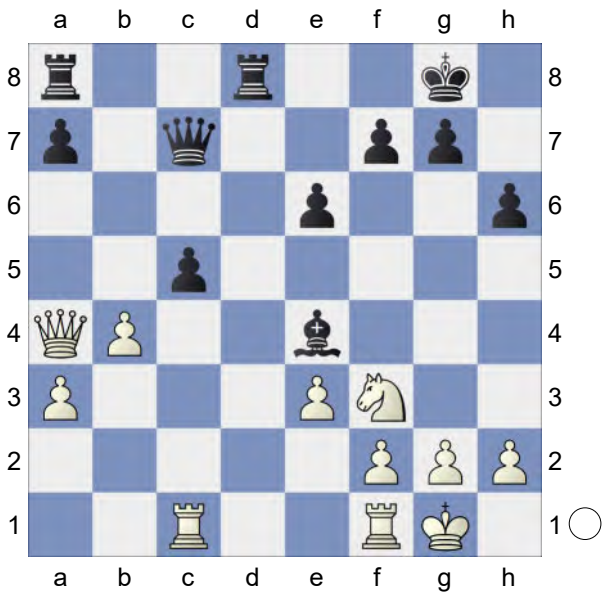


11.e3 h6 12.Bh4 Nbd7 13.Bb5 Qc8 14.Rc1 c5 15.Bxf6 Nxf6



16.dxc5 bxc5 17.b4 Ne4 0.51/21
[17...a6= 0.14/21 18.Be2 Qd7 19.Qxd7 Nxd7]
18.0-0± Strongly threatening bxc5.
18...Qc7 19.Bd3 Rfd8 20.Bxe4 Bxe4

(Diagram)



21.bxc5 Bc6 22.Qc2 Rac8 23.Nd4 Ba8 0.92/19

[23...Rd5± 0.48/19]

24.Rfd1

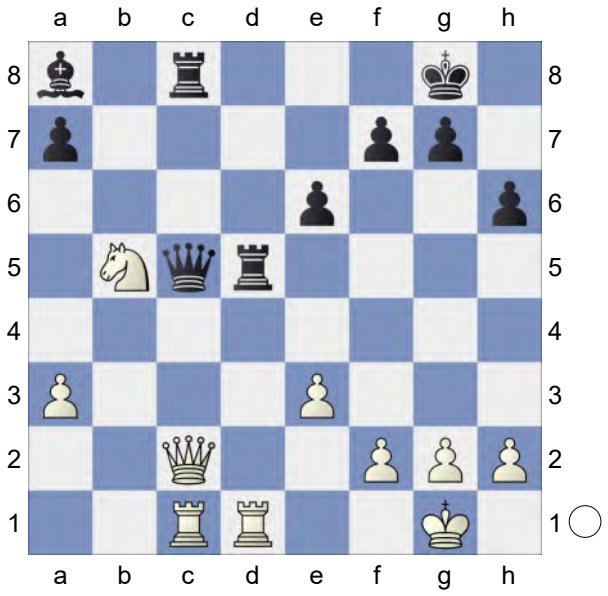
[Of course not 24.c6?! e5 25.Nb5 Qxc6 26.Qxc6 Rxc6=]

24...Rd5 25.Nb5 -0.20/23

[Better is 25.c6± 0.77/21]

25...Qxc5 0.26/21

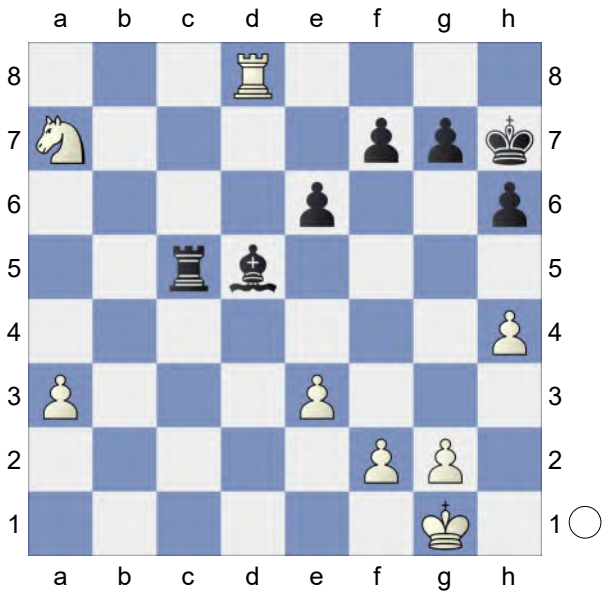
[25...Rxd1+! -0.20/23 feels stronger. 26.Qxd1 Qa5]



26.Rxd5= Qxc2 27.Rxc2 Rxc2

Endgame KRB-KRN **28.Rd8+ Kh7** (→ ...Rc1+) **29.h4 Bd5 30.Nxa7 Rc5** 0.77/20

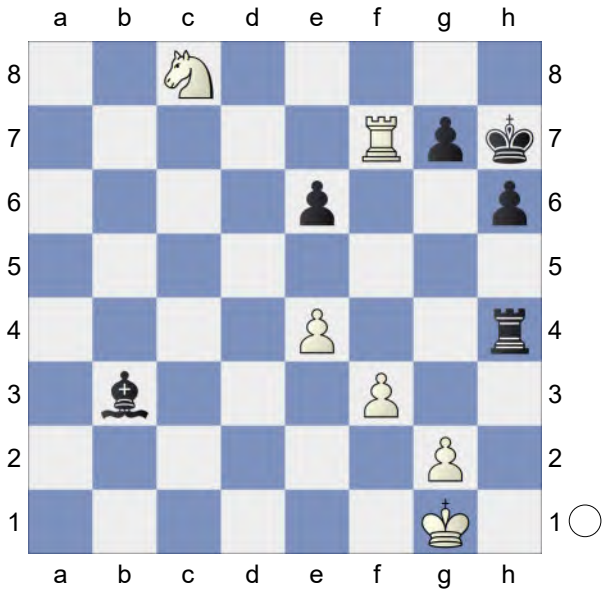
[30...g5= 0.27/21 remains equal.]



31.Nc8!± Ra5 32.Rd7 Rxa3 1.22/25

[⌓32...Kg6 0.91/22]

33.Rxf7 Ra4 34.f3 Rxh4 35.e4 Bb3

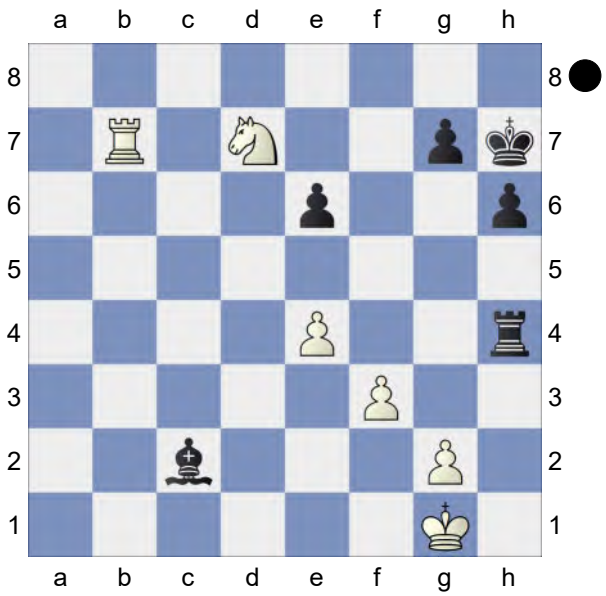


36.Rb7 Ba4 37.Nb6 Bc2 2.55/24

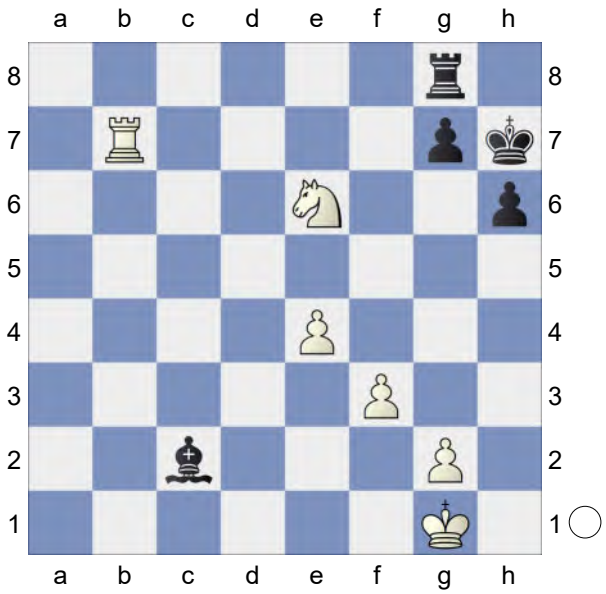
[37...Bc6± 1.52/23 keeps fighting. 38.Re7 Rh5 39.Rxe6 Rc5]

38.Nd7+-

(Diagram)

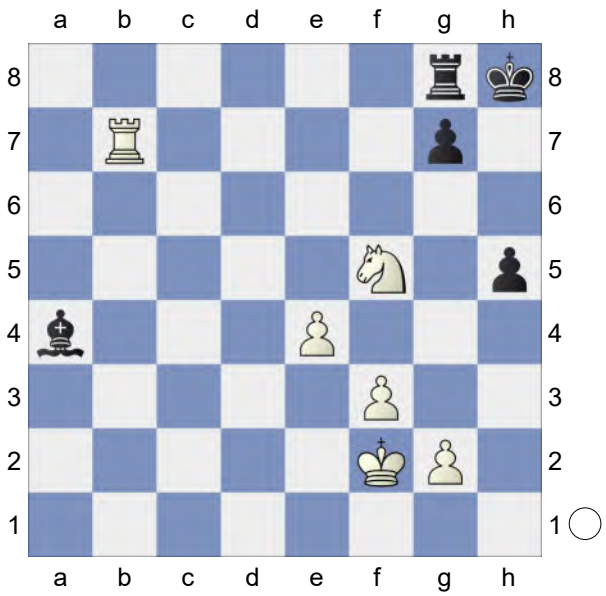


Threatens to win with g3. **38...Rf4 39.Nc5**
[But not 39.Rb8?! Rf7±]
39...Rf8 40.Nxe6 Rg8

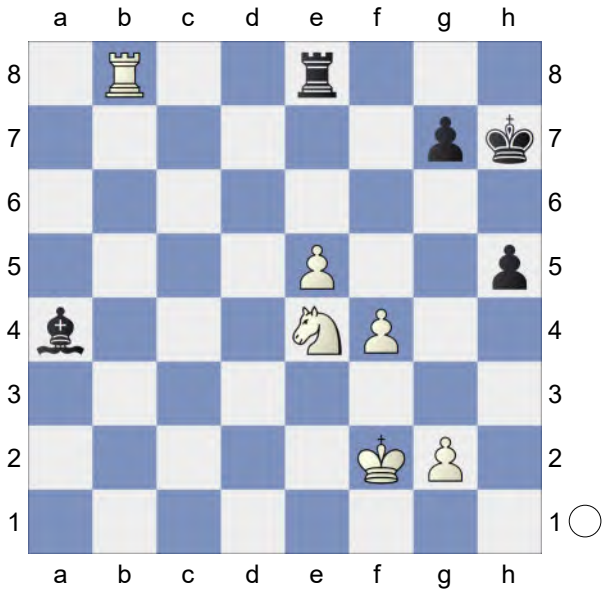


41.Nc5 Rc8 42.Ne6 0.01/19
[White should try 42.Nd7+- 1.77/19]
42...Rg8!= This move loses the game for Black. **43.Nd4 Ba4 44.Nf5 h5 45.Kf2 Kh8**

(Diagram)

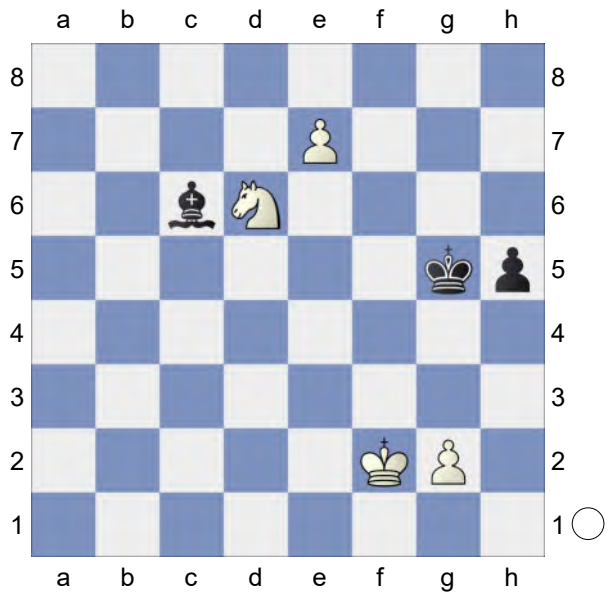


46.e5 Re8 47.Nd6 Re6 48.f4 Hoping for f5. **48...Kg8 49.Rb8+ Kh7 50.Ne4 Re8** 6.55/21
[⌓50...Kg6 4.03/24 51.Nc5 Re8]

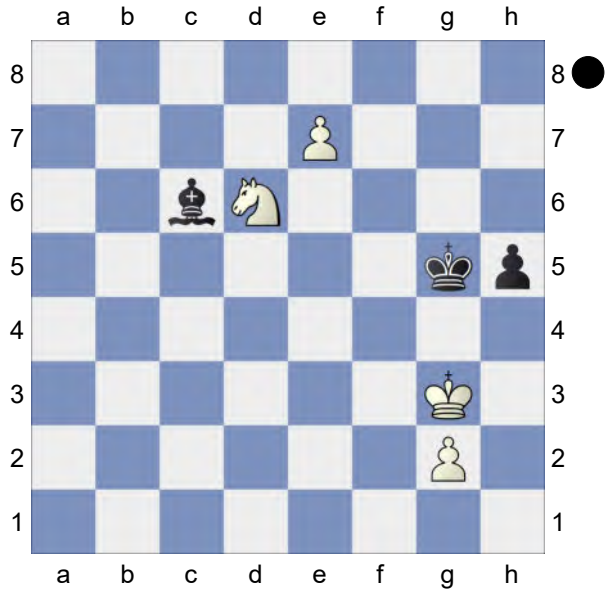


51.Rxe8+- White is clearly winning.
51...Bxe8 52.e6 Bc6 53.Nd6 And now Kg3 would win. **53...g5 54.fxg5 Kg6 55.e7 Kxg5**

(Diagram)



56.Kg3

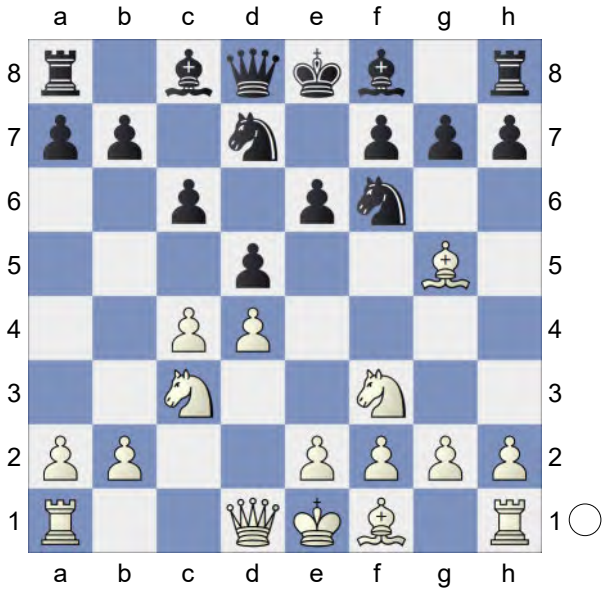


Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)

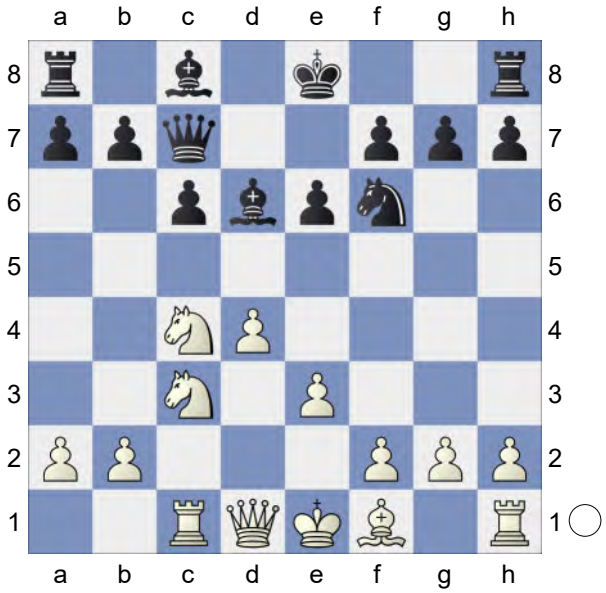
1-0

28 **D52**
□ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
■ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
Tata Steel Challengers (4.7) 21.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D52: Queen's Gambit Declined: Cambridge Springs Variation **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bg5 Nbd7**



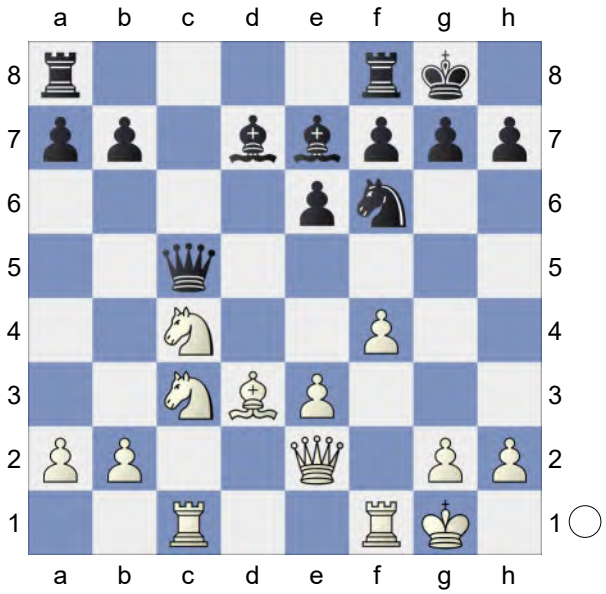
6.e3 Qa5 7.Nd2 dxc4 8.Bxf6 Nxf6 9.Nxc4 Qc7 10.Rc1 Bd6



11.f4 0-0 12.Bd3 Be7 The position is equal. **13.0-0 c5 14.Qe2N**

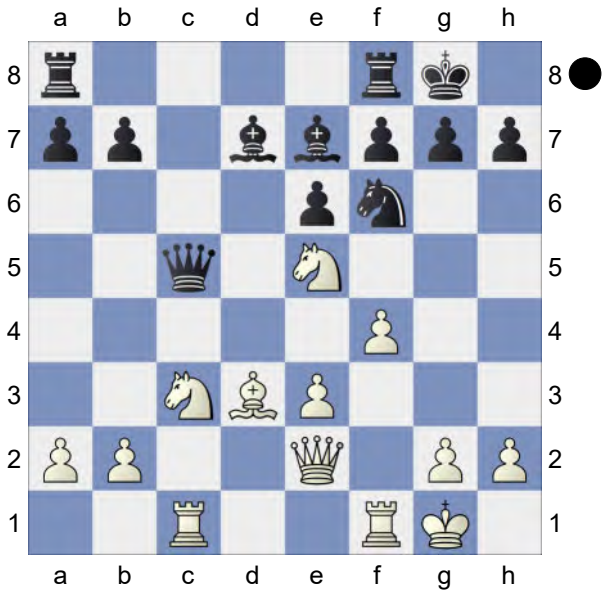
[14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.Kh1 Qe7 16.Qe2 Bd7 *(16...b6 17.e4 Bb7 18.e5 Nd5 19.Ne4* 5) Semi-Slav: Cambridge Sprin-Cambridge Springs: 7... dxc4 w Lifetime Repertoires: Plichta's Queen's 2023*)* 17.a3 a5 18.e4 b5 19.Nxa5 Rxa5 20.b4 Rxa3 21.bxc5 b4 22.Nb1 5) Semi-Slav: Cambridge Sprin-Cambridge Springs: 7...dxc4 w Lifetime Repertoires: Plichta's Queen's 2023]

14...Bd7 15.dxc5 Qxc5

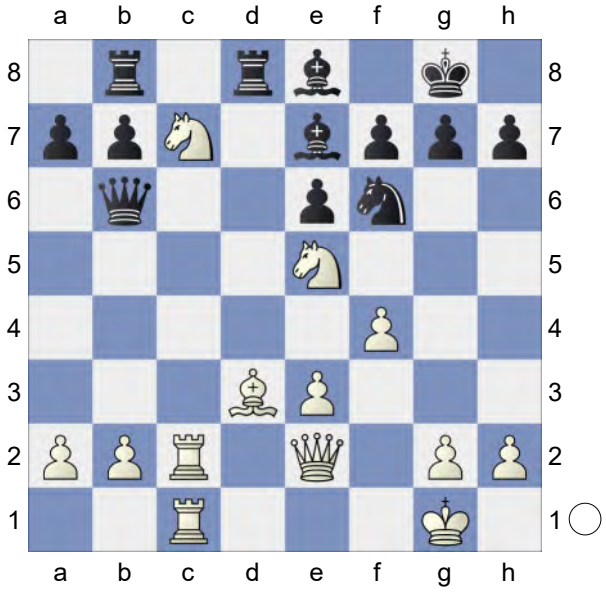


16.Ne5

(Diagram)

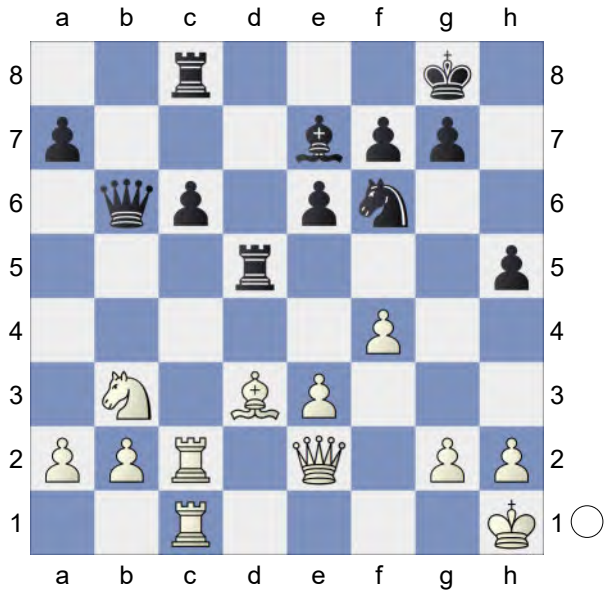


Ne4 is the strong threat. **16...Rfc8** **17.Rc2** Hoping for Ne4. **17...Be8** **18.Rfc1** **Rd8** **19.Nb5** Pair of Knights! **19...Qb6** White must now prevent ... Rxd3! **20.Nc7** **Rab8**



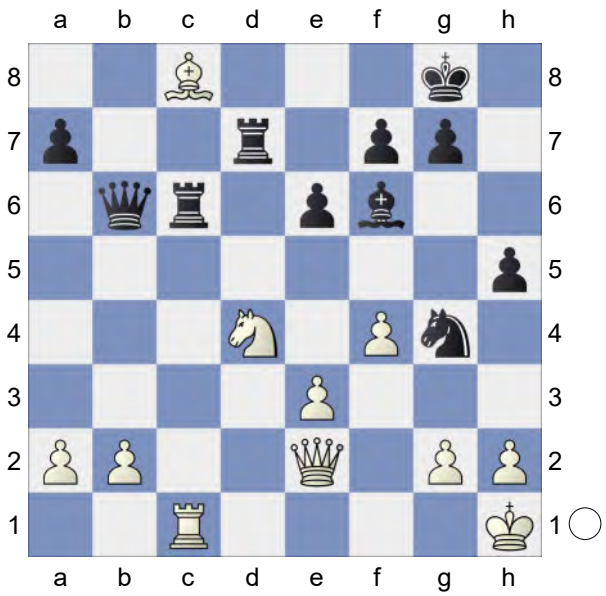
21.Kh1 -0.51/17
[White should play 21.Nxe8= 0.01/15 Rxe8 22.Nc4 *(22.Rc7 Nd5=)*]
21...Bc6∓ **22.Nxc6** **bxc6** **23.Na6** **Rbc8** -0.31/17
[⌓23...Rb7 -0.68/21]
24.Nc5 **Rd5** -0.01/16
[24...Nd5∓ -0.39/18 25.Rc4 Rb8]

25.Nb3 **h5**

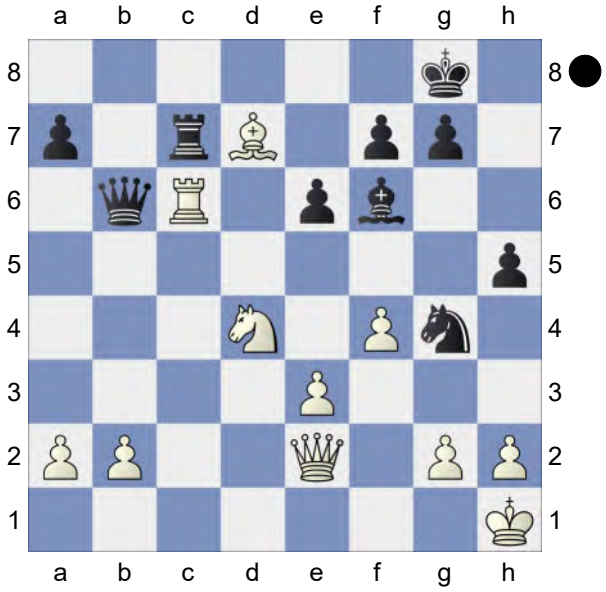


26.Bc4 **Rd7** **27.Nd4** **Ng4** **28.Ba6** **Rcc7** Threatens to win with ...Nxe3!
29.Rxc6 -0.46/20
[But not 29.Nxc6 Bf6=]
[29.Rc3= 0.01/20 is more appropriate.]
29...Bf6 **30.Bc8** -2.04/23
[Better is 30.h3∓ -0.66/21 Nxe3 31.Rxb6 *(31.Rxc7 Rxc7 32.Rxc7 Qxc7∓)* 31...Rxc1+ 32.Kh2 Nf1+ 33.Qxf1 Rxf1 34.Rb8+ Bd8 35.Bxf1 Rxd4 36.b3]
30...Rxc6-+

(Diagram)

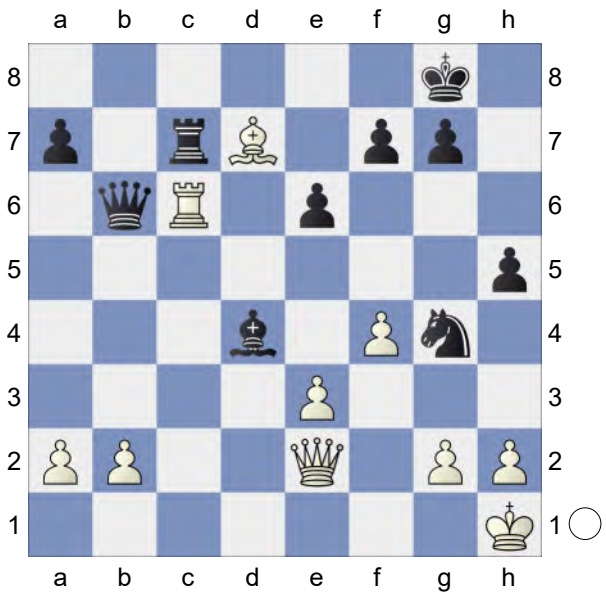


Remove Defender **31.Rxc6** **Rc7**
32.Bd7? -5.80/22
[32.Rxc7 -2.19/21 is tougher. Qxc7 33.Qc2]



32...Bxd4!

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.07 (flawless)
0-1

29 **B51**
□ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
■ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
Tata Steel Challengers (5.1) 22.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B51: Sicilian: Moscow Variation (3 Bb5+) without 3...Bd7 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+N**

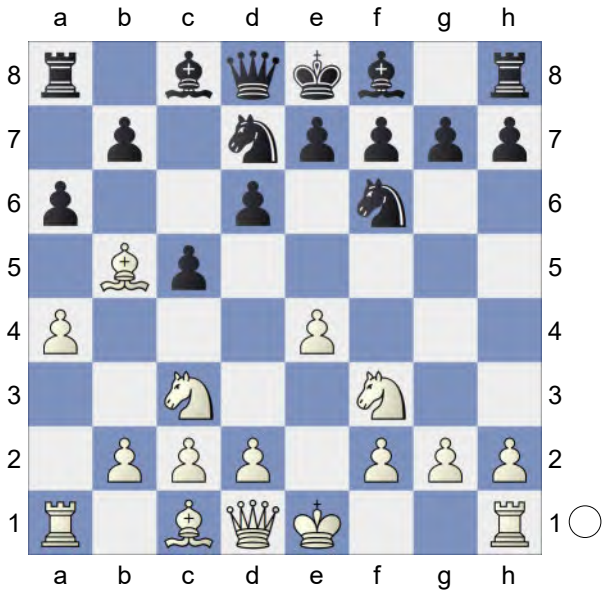
[3.d4 cxd4 4.c3 dxc3 *(4...Nf6 5.e5 dxe5 6.Nxe5 Nc6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.cxd4 e5 9.dxe5 Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 Ng4 11.Be3 Nxe3+ 12.fxe3 Bc5* Rare 3rd moves ----- for 2... -Rare 3rd moves ----- for 2...) 5.Nxc3 Nf6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Qe2 a6 9.Rd1 Qc7 10.Bf4 Nh5 11.Be3 Nc6 12.Rac1 Qb8 13.Bb3 Nf6 14.Na4 Nd7 15.Nb6 Nxb6 16.Bxb6 0-0 17.e5 dxe5 9.Bg5 a5 10.a4 Be6/12.K (1561)-Suchting Hugo (2033) Fagernes 2005 CCYB 4 [Dragan Solak] 0-1 (33)]

[3.g3 e5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.d3 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.c3 Nge7 8.a3 0-0 9.b4 h6 10.Nbd2 Be6 11.Nb3 c4 12.dxc4 Bxc4 13.Re1 Qc7 14.Nfd2 Be6 15.a4 a5 16.b5 Nb8 17.Ba3 Rd8 Sorensen,S (2188)-5...exd4 #8: 6... d5 (2413) Banjaluka 27/362 2022 ICCF 2019 [John Watson] ½-½ (39)]

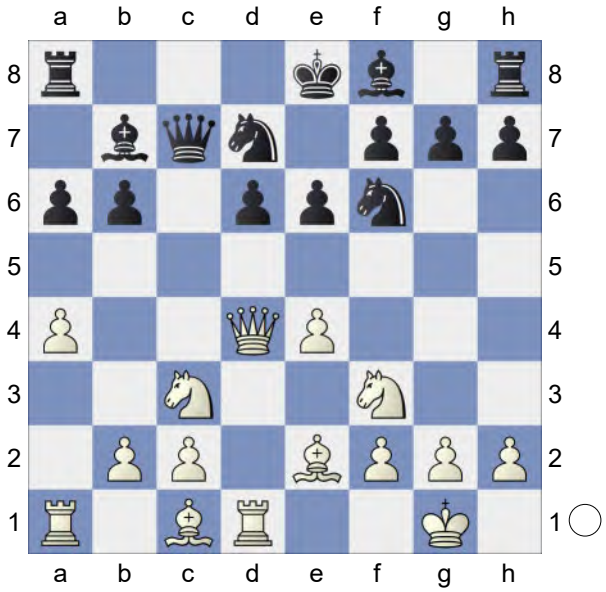
[3.c3 Nf6 4.Be2 Nc6 5.d4 g6 6.0-0 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.h3 a6 10.Be3 e6 11.Rc1 Bd7 12.a3 Rc8 13.b4 e5 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Qc2 Be6 16.Rfd1 Nd7 17.Bc5 Re8 6.Qc2 dc4 7.Bg5_52242 (1483)-Potkin, V (1417) Warsaw 2023 Inf 73 [John Watson] 1-0]

3...Nd7 4.a4 Ngf6 5.Nc3 a6

(Diagram)

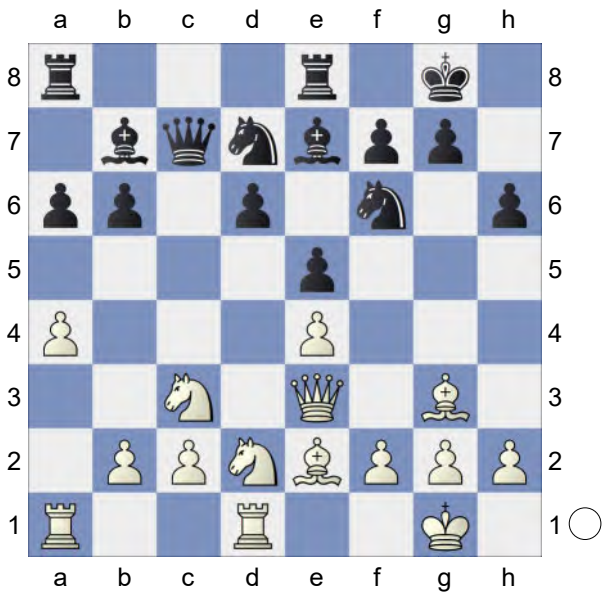


6.Be2 b6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 The position is equal. **8...Bb7 9.0-0 e6 10.Rd1 Qc7**

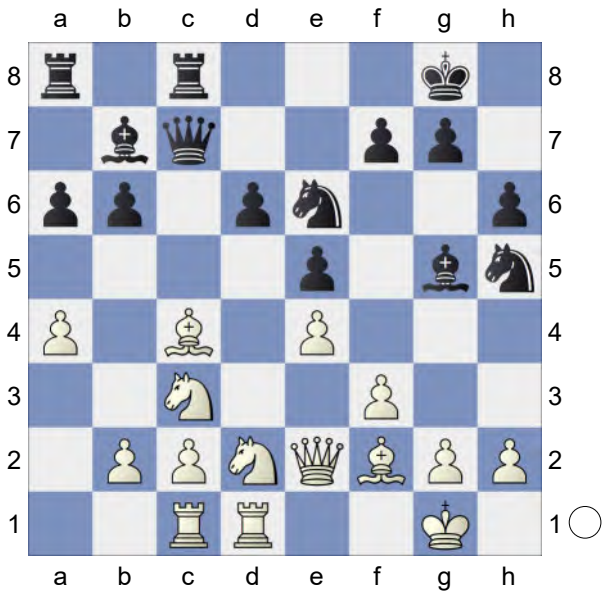


11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Be7 13.Bg3 e5 14.Qe3 0-0 15.Nd2 Rfe8

(Diagram)

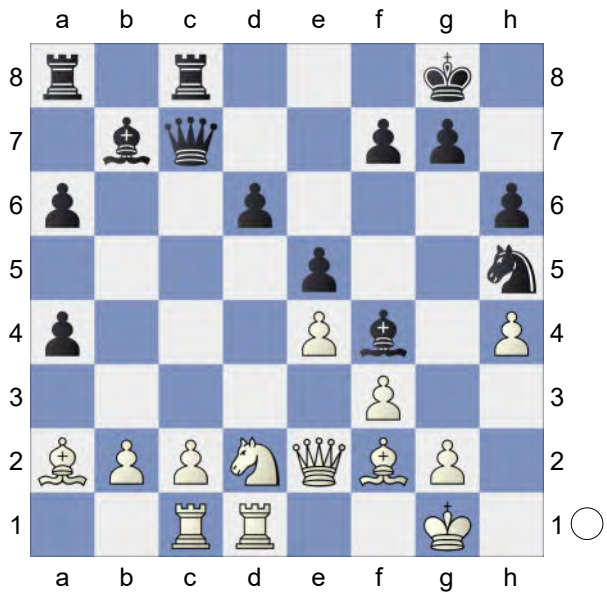


16.Bc4 Nc5 17.Qe2 Ne6 18.Rac1 Rec8 19.f3 Nh5 20.Bf2 Bg5

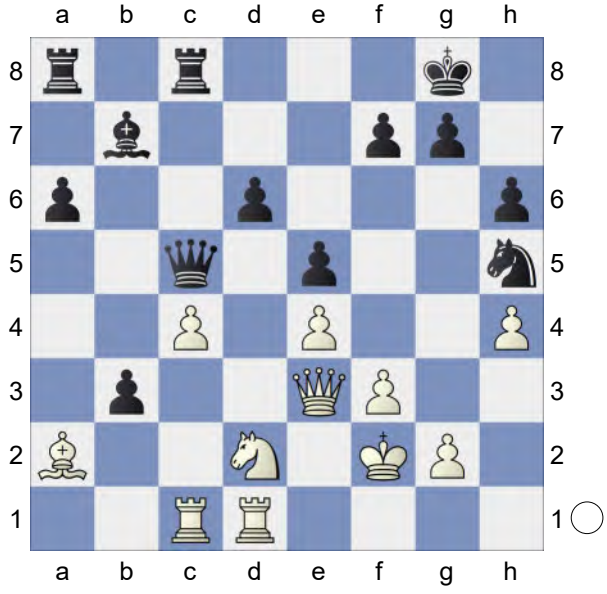


21.Ba2 -0.32/18
[21.g3= 0.11/21]
21...Nd4!∓ 22.Qf1 b5 23.h4 Bf4 24.Ne2 Prevents Ng3. **24...Nxe2+**
[24...Nxc2? 25.Bb3+-]
25.Qxe2 bxa4

(Diagram)

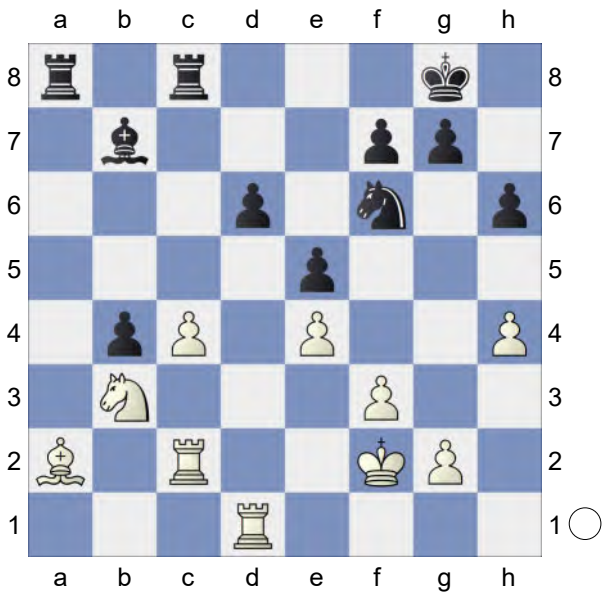


26.c4 Bg3 27.Bxg3 Nxg3 28.Qe3 -0.94/20
[28.Qe1!∓ -0.53/22 Qc5+ 29.Kh2]
28...Qc5 -0.31/21
[28...Qe7∓ -0.94/20 29.Nf1 Nxf1 30.Kxf1 Rab8]
29.Kf2 Nh5! 30.b4! axb3
[30...Qxb4 31.Rb1 Qc5 32.Rxb7±]

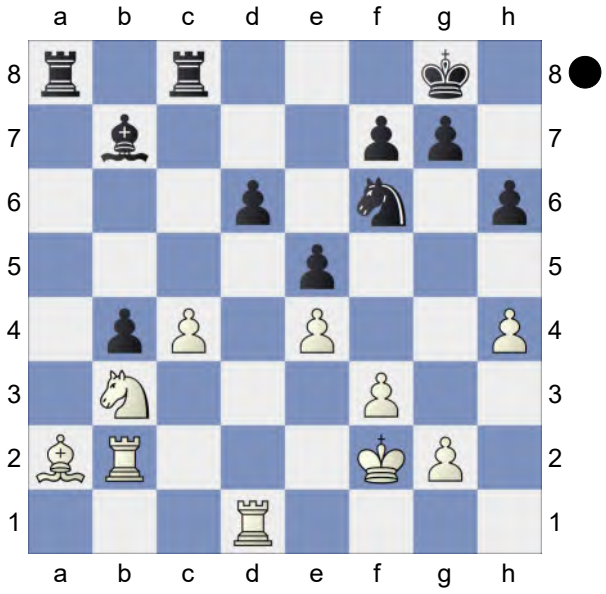


31.Nxb3 Qa3↑ Black is in control.
32.Rc2 Nf6 33.Qc1 Qb4 34.Qd2 a5 35.Qxb4 axb4

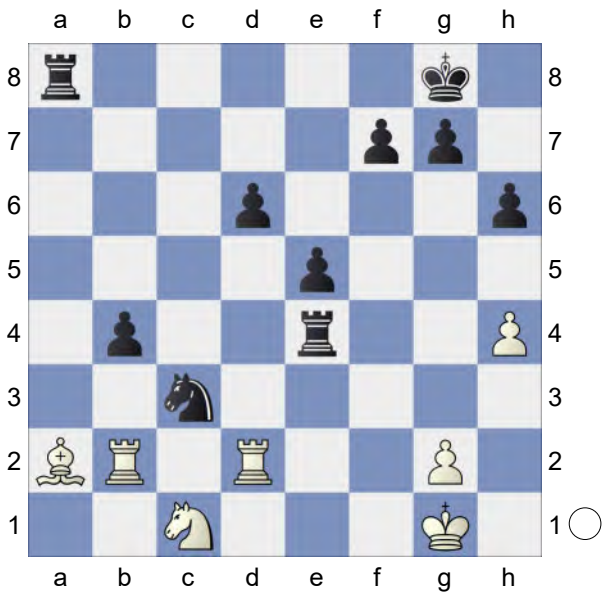
(Diagram)



36.Rb2 -1.64/21
[36.Nc1∓ -1.24/21]

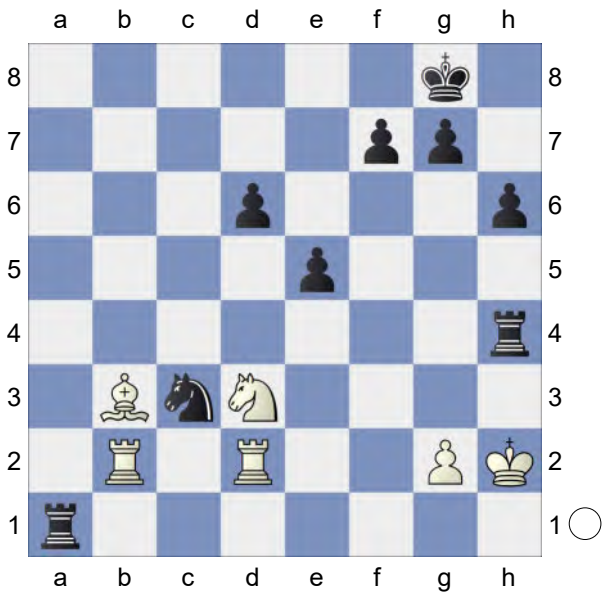


36...Bxe4!-+ 37.fxe4
[37.Nc1 Bf5]
37...Nxe4+ 38.Kg1 -2.12/23
[⌓38.Ke1 -1.64/21]
38...Nc3
[38...Rxc4 39.Nc1 Rcc8 40.Rf1∓]
39.Rdd2 Rxc4
[39...Rxa2 40.Rxa2 Nxa2 41.Rxa2∓]
40.Nc1 Re4
(Diagram)

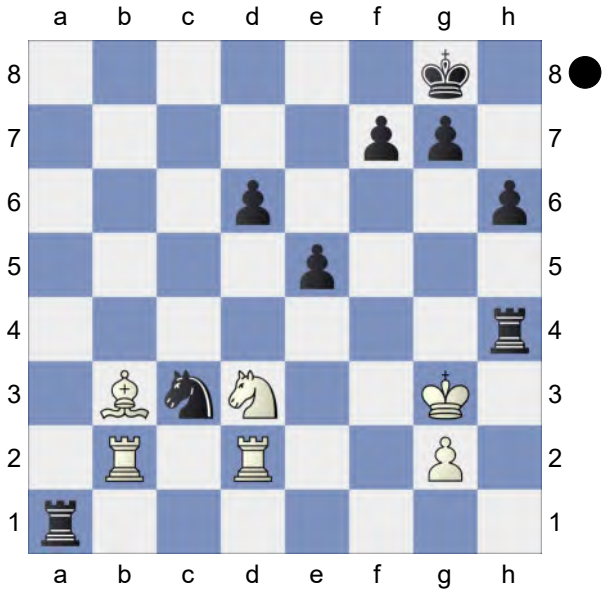


41.Nd3 Prevents Re1+. **41...b3**
[Worse is 41...Rxa2 42.Rxa2 Nxa2 43.Rxa2]
[Inferior is 41...Rxh4 42.Nxb4 Rxb4 43.Rxb4 Rxa2 44.Rxa2 Nxa2 45.Rb8+ Kh7 46.Rd8∓]
42.Bxb3 Ra1+
[Weaker is 42...Rxh4 43.Rdc2 Ra1+ 44.Rc1 Rxc1+ 45.Nxc1=]
43.Kh2 Rxh4+ 44.Kg3 Rd4
White must now prevent ...Ne4+. **45.Kh2 Rh4+?** -0.01/5
[45...g5!-+ -2.19/22 Strongly threatening ...Rh4+. 46.g3 Ne4]

(Diagram)

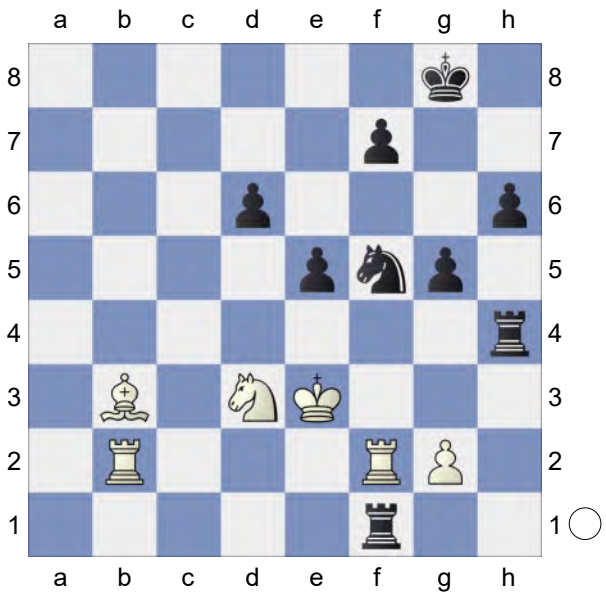


46.Kg3=

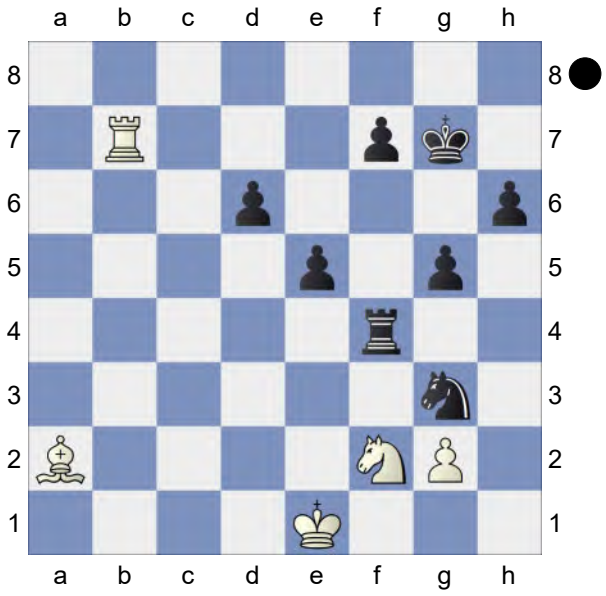


g5 ...Ne4+ is the strong threat. &Nero is much more active. **47.Rdc2 Ne4+ 48.Kf3 Rf1+ 49.Ke3 Ng3 50.Rf2 Nf5+**

(Diagram)

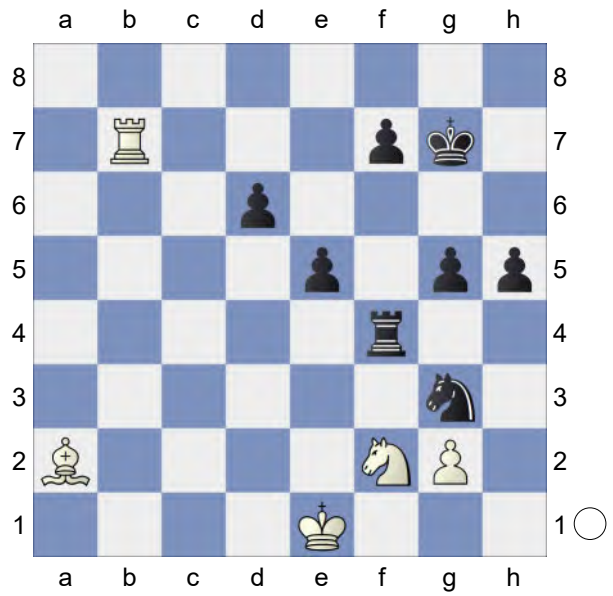


51.Ke2 Rxf2+ 52.Nxf2 Kg7 -0.01/20
[52...h5∓ -1.04/21]
53.Ba2 -1.10/22
[53.g4= -0.01/20 Nd4+ 54.Kf1]
53...Rf4 -0.67/22
[53...Ra4∓ -1.10/22 And now ...g4 would win. 54.Nd1 Ra3]
54.Rb7∓ Ng3+! 55.Ke1 -1.79/23
[55.Ke3!∓ -0.40/24]

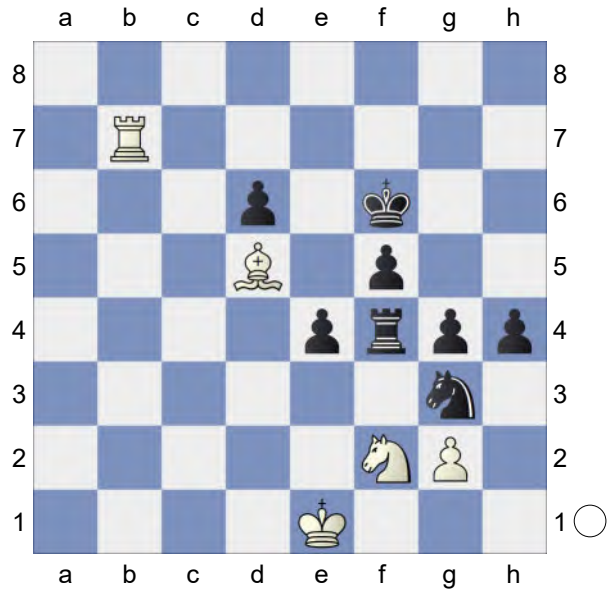


This move loses the game for White.
55...h5!-+

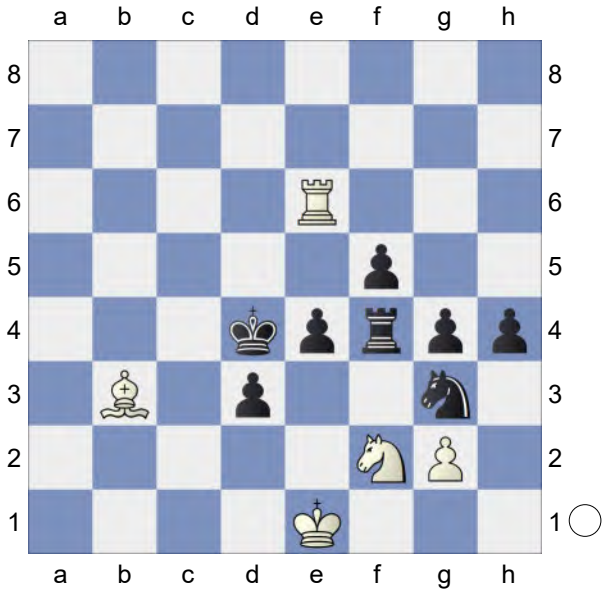
(Diagram)



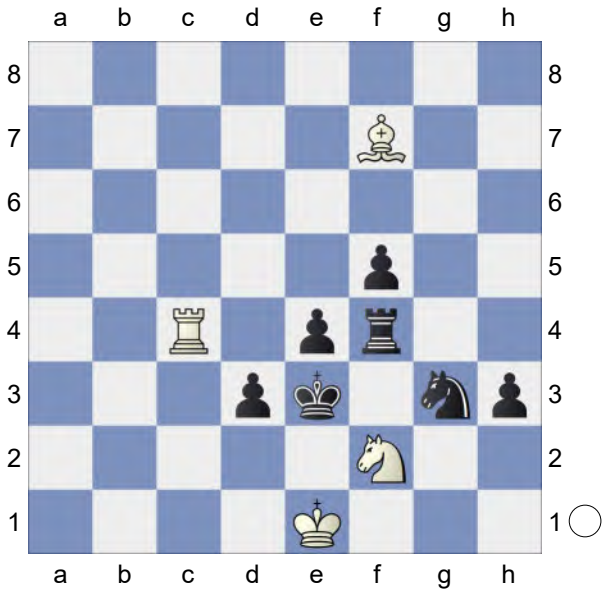
56.Bd5 -1.95/24
[56.Be6∓ -1.37/21]
56...g4 57.Rb3 -2.09/22
[57.Bc6 -1.71/23 might work better.]
57...h4 58.Rb7 e4 Threatens to win with ...e3. **59.Rb4 f5 60.Rb7+ Kf6**



Hoping for ...e3. **61.Rf7+ Ke5 62.Bb3?** -5.85/22
[62.Bc4 -3.06/23]
62...d5 63.Ra7 d4 -3.00/23
[⌓63...h3 -6.93/22 64.gxh3 Rf3]
64.Ra6? -7.80/23
[64.Ra5+ -3.00/23 Kf6 65.Ra6+ Ke7 66.Bc4]
64...d3 65.Re6+ Kd4

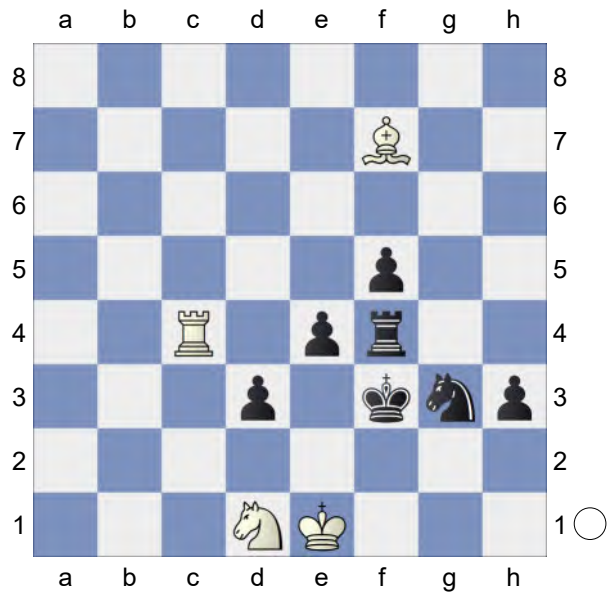


aiming for ... d2+! **66.Rd6+** Black is clearly winning. **66...Kc3 67.Bf7 h3 68.gxh3 gxh3 69.Rc6+ Kd4 70.Rc4+ Ke3**



71.Nd1+ Kf3

(Diagram)

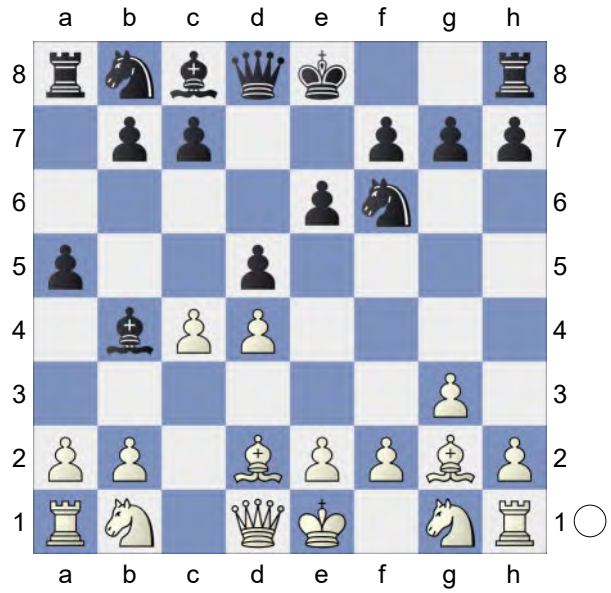


Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

0-1

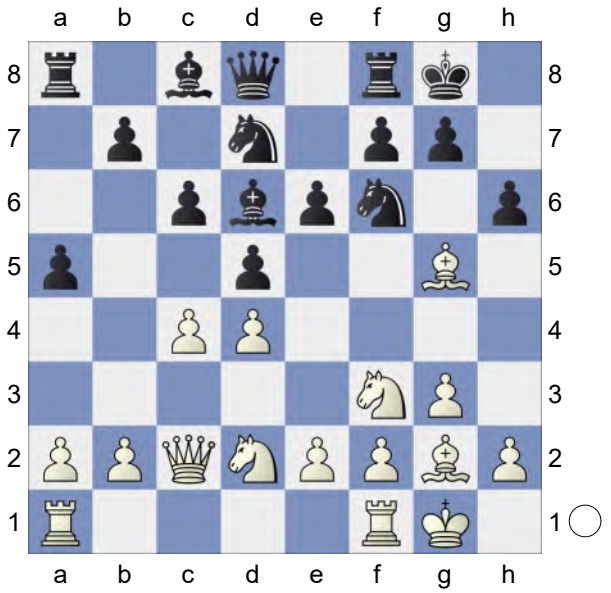
30 **E00**
□ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
■ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
Tata Steel Challengers (5.2) 22.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

E11: Bogo-Indian **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.Bg2 d5**

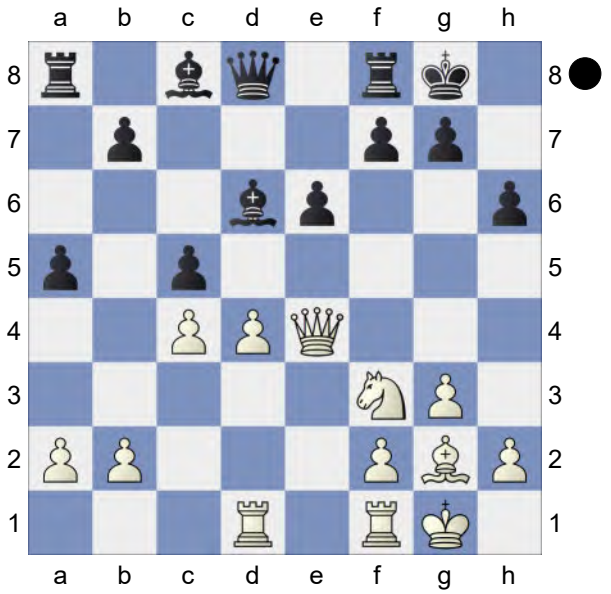


6.Nf3 0-0 7.Qc2 Bd6N
[7...c5 8.cxd5 *(8.dxc5 d4 9.Bxb4 axb4 10.Nbd2 Nc6 11.0-0 Qe7 12.Ng5 h6 13.Nge4 Nd7 14.Nb3 f5 15.Nd6 Nxc5 16.Nxc5 Qxd6 17.Nd3 e5 18.c5 Qe7 19.Nxb4 Nxb4 20.Qc4+ Be6 21.Qxb4 Rac8 22.Rac1 b6* 6.Nbd2 h6 (2264) -Krug, P (1926) corr LIPEAP 2023 CBM 068 ext [John Watson] 1-0 (45)*)* 8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 Qb6 10.e3 exd5 11.0-0 Nc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Rc1 Rb8 14.Bxb4 Qxb4 15.b3 h5 16.Nc3 *(16.Nd2 Bd7 17.Nf3 Rfc8 18.Ne5 Qd6 19.Nxd7 Qxd7 20.h3 c5 21.Rd1 d4 22.Qd2 a4 23.exd4* ½-½ (23) 6.Bg5 Na6 7.Bd3 e5 (2445)-Gutierrez,R (2574) USSR 37/292 2023 CBM 053 ext [John Watson]*)* 16...h4 17.Ne2 Bd7 18.Nf4 hxg3 19.hxg3 Rfc8 20.Bf3 a4 21.bxa4 Ra8 22.Nd3 Chapter-Games Game 4 (42) Qxa4 23.Qxa4 Rxa4 24.Nc5 Ra5 25.a4 Rca8 26.Bd1 Be8 Winter (2805) - Grube,J (2763) Dubai 2020 200 Traps In The Opening [HB]]

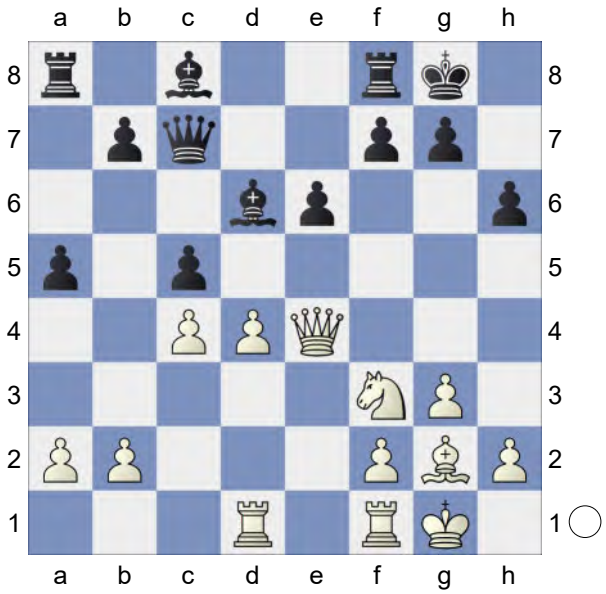
8.0-0 c6 9.Bg5 Nbd7 The position is equal. **10.Nbd2 h6**



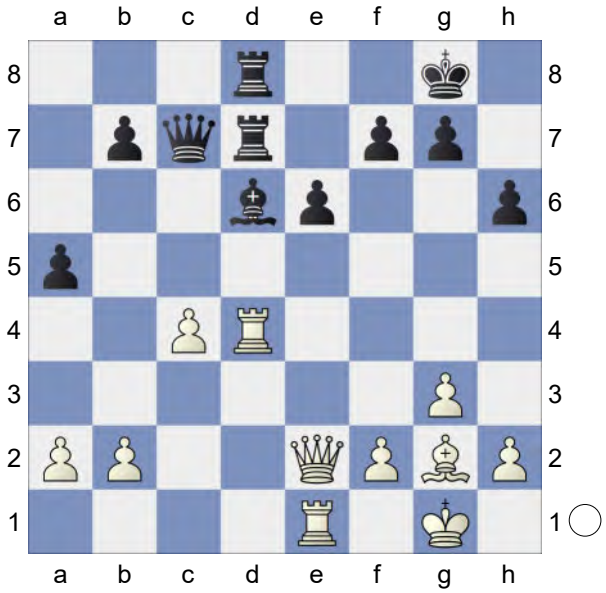
11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4 c5 15.Rad1



Hoping for dxc5. **15...Qc7** (Diagram)

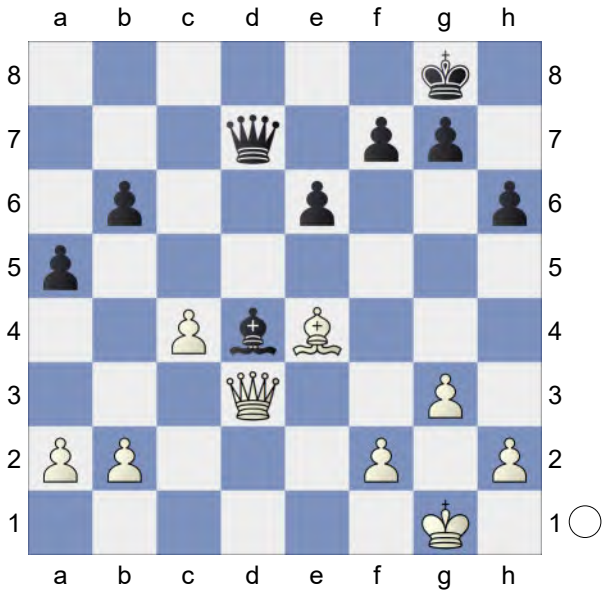


16.Qe2 Bd7 17.Rfe1 Rad8 18.Ne5 cxd4 19.Nxd7 Rxd7 20.Rxd4 Rfd8



Threatens to win with ...Bxg3! **21.Red1 Bc5 22.Rxd7 Rxd7 23.Rxd7 Qxd7 24.Be4 b6 25.Qd3 Bd4**

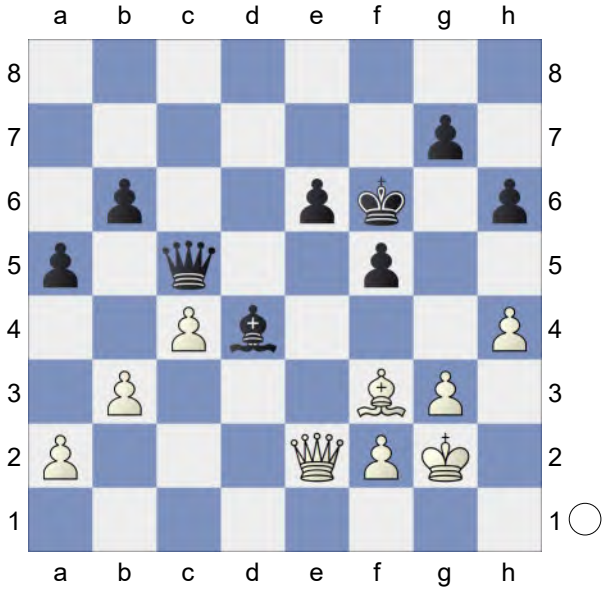
(Diagram)



26.Kg2 Qd6 27.b3 f5 28.Bf3 Qc5 0.01/18

[28...Bc5∓ -0.40/22 29.Qxd6 Bxd6]

29.Qe2 Kf7 30.h4 Kf6



31.h5 Qd6 32.Qd3 Qe5 -0.01/18

[32...Bc5∓ -0.32/23 33.Qxd6 Bxd6]

33.Qe2 -0.71/22

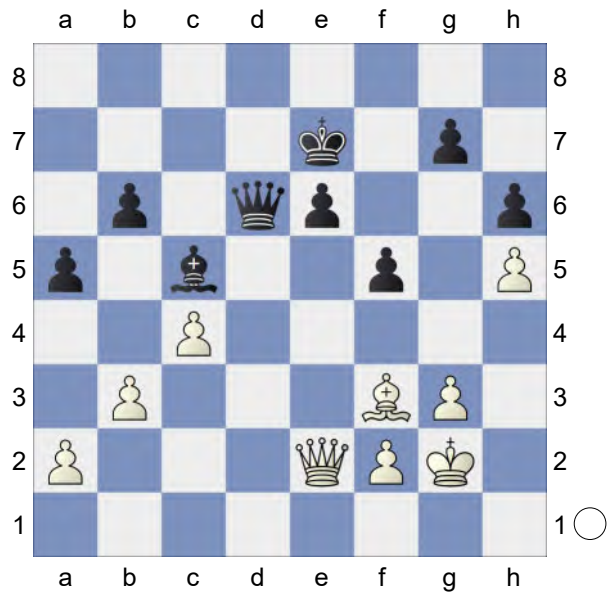
[33.Bc6= -0.01/18]

33...Qd6 0.01/24

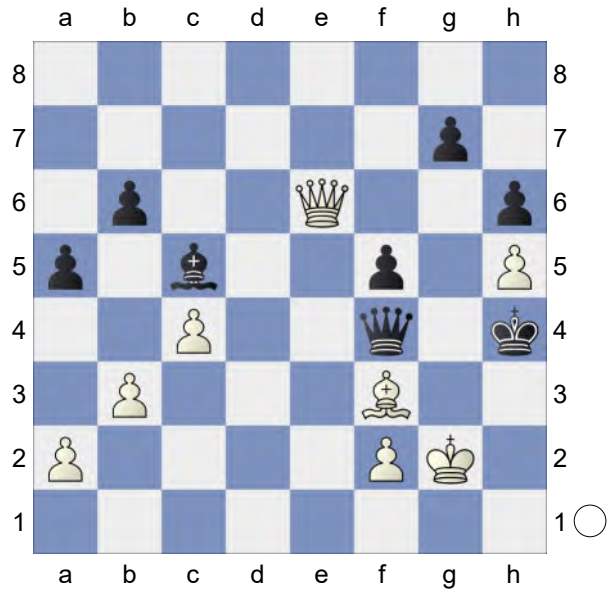
[Better is 33...Qxe2∓ -0.71/22 34.Bxe2 e5]

34.Qd3= Ke7 35.Qe2 Bc5

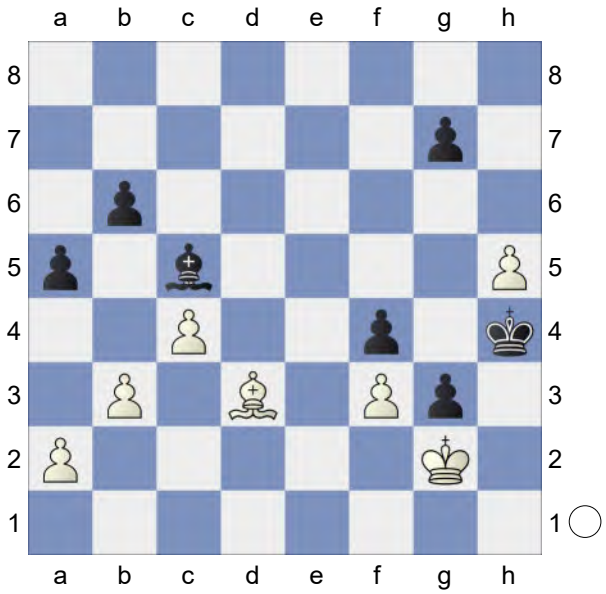
(Diagram)



36.g4 Kf6 37.gxf5 exf5 38.Bd5 Kg5 39.Qe6 -1.05/25
[39.Bf3= -0.01/24]
39...Qf4 -0.10/27
[39...Qxe6∓ -1.05/25 40.Bxe6 Kxh5 41.Bxf5 Kg5]
40.Bf3 Kh4



41.Qg6 -1.49/29
[41.Qe1= -0.11/26]
41...Qg5+∓ 42.Qxg5+ hxg5 43.Be2 g4 44.f3 -2.12/33
[44.Bd3∓ -1.27/33]
44...g3 White must now prevent ...f4.
45.Bd3 f4



Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) / Black=0.14 (very precise)
½-½

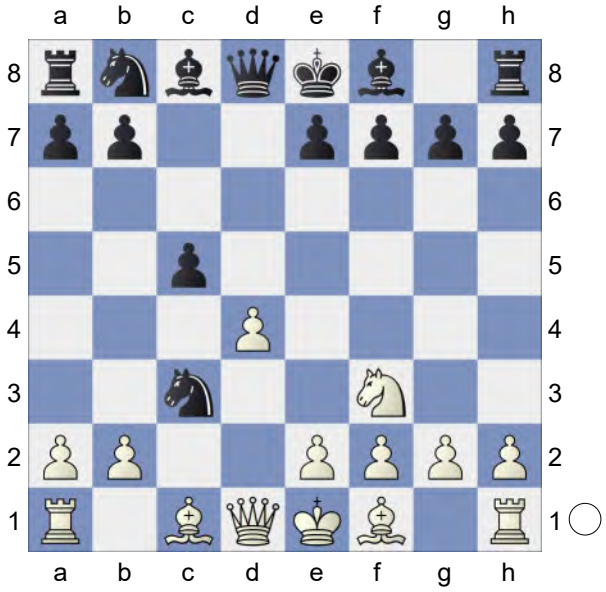
31 **A34**
□ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
■ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
Tata Steel Challengers (5.3) 22.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D85: Exchange Grünfeld: Unusual White 7th moves and lines with 7 Nf3 **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.d4N**

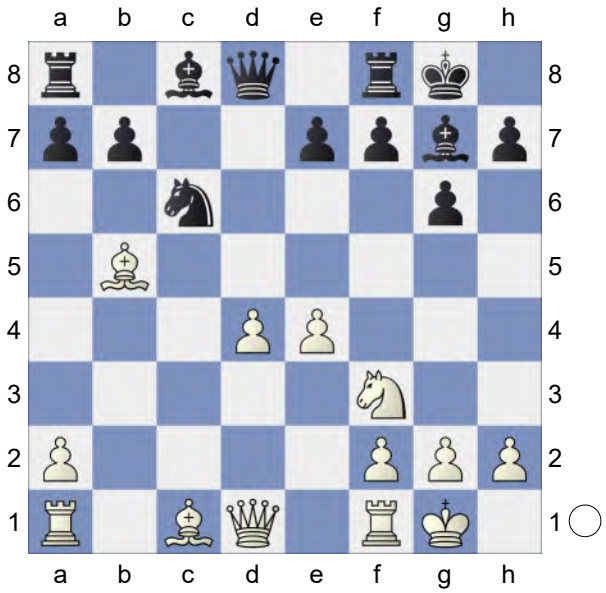
[5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nxc3 7.bxc3 e5 8.0-0 Be7 9.Rb1 0-0 10.d3 Qc7 11.Be3 Be6 12.Qa4 Rac8 13.Ng5 Bxg5 14.Bxg5 b6 15.Rfd1 Qd7 16.Rb2 f6 17.Bc1 Rfd8 18.Rbd2 Bd5 19.Bf1 Be6 11.d5 c4 12.Bc2 Qc7 (2545)-Strichalski,J (2530) Bad Woerishofen 1996 CBM 095 [Charpentier,D/ Blondel,F] 0-1 (38)]

[5.e3 e6 6.Bc4 *(6.Nxd5 exd5 7.b4 Qf6 8.Rb1 Qg6 9.Bb2 c4 10.Bc3* 2a2) Symmetry 2...c5: 5...e6-Symmetrical With 3...d5 and 5 Lifetime Repertoires: Modern Reti - Par 2024 *)* 6...Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qe2 Nc6 9.Rd1 b6 10.d4 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Qc7 12.e4 Rd8 13.Be3 Na5 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.h4 b5 16.Bxb5 Bxe4 17.dxc5 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Bxc5 19.Bf4 Qb7 Ernst,H (2764)-4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 (2777) Thessaloniki 2019 CBM 94 [Zsolt Karacsony] 1-0 (63) 20.Qe2 Qe7 21.h5 Bd6 22.Bxd6 Rxd6 23.Rxd6 Qxd6 24.Rd1 Qc5 25.Rd7 Qxc3 26.Qd1 h6 27.g3 Rf8 28.Rxa7 Nc6 29.Rd7 Ne5 30.Rd8 Qc7 31.Rxf8+ Kxf8 32.a4 Ke7 33.Be2 Qc3 34.Qb1 Nc6 Chapter Best Tn-Games Game 7 (63) 35.Qb7+ Kf6 36.Bf1 Na5 37.Qd7 g5 38.hxg6 Kxg6 39.Kg2 Kg7 40.Bb5 Qe5 41.Qd3 Qc5 42.Qf3 Qd4 43.Be8 Qd5 44.Qxd5 exd5 45.Kf3 Kf6 46.Kg4 Ke7 47.Bb5 Kf6 48.Kh5 Kg7 49.Bf1 Nb3 Delabbey,F-Markus,R Tel Aviv (Israel) 200 Traps In The Opening [John Watson] (63)]

5...Nxc3



6.bxc3 g6 7.e4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.0-0 cxd4 10.cxd4 0-0



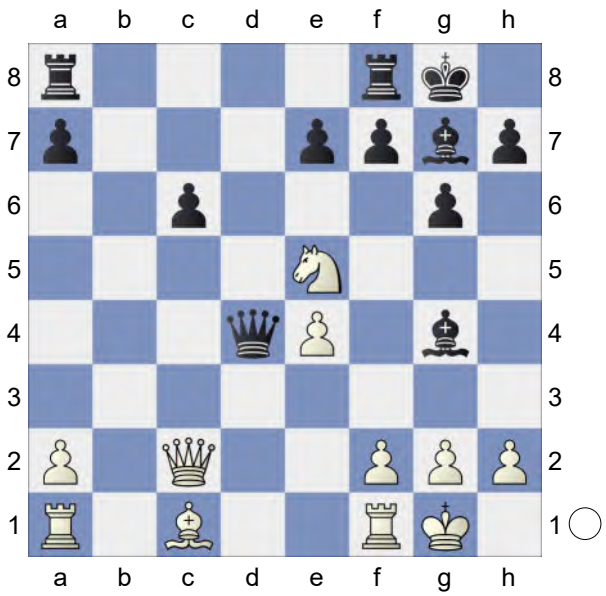
11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Qc2 -0.35/21

[Better is 12.Be3= 0.23/19]

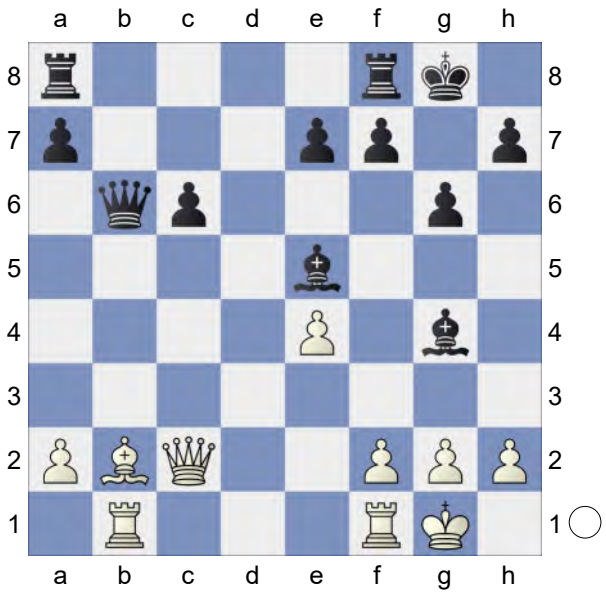
12...Bg4!∓

[12...Bxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Be3=]

13.Ne5! The position is equal. **13...Qxd4**

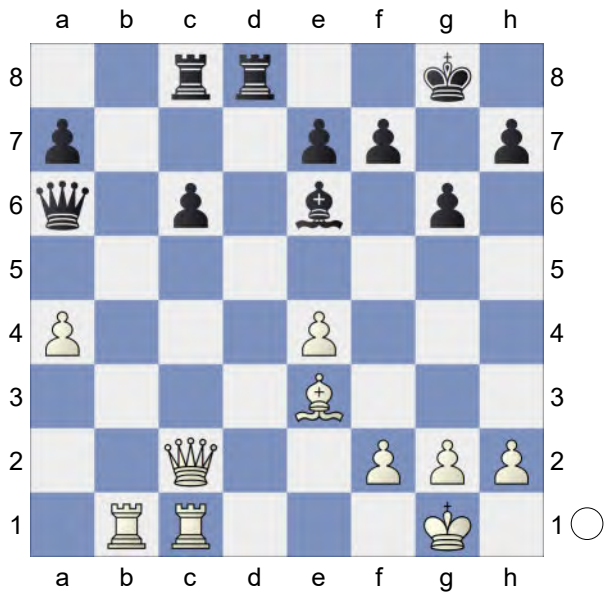


14.Bb2! Qb6
[14...Qb4 15.Rfb1]
15.Rab1 Bxe5

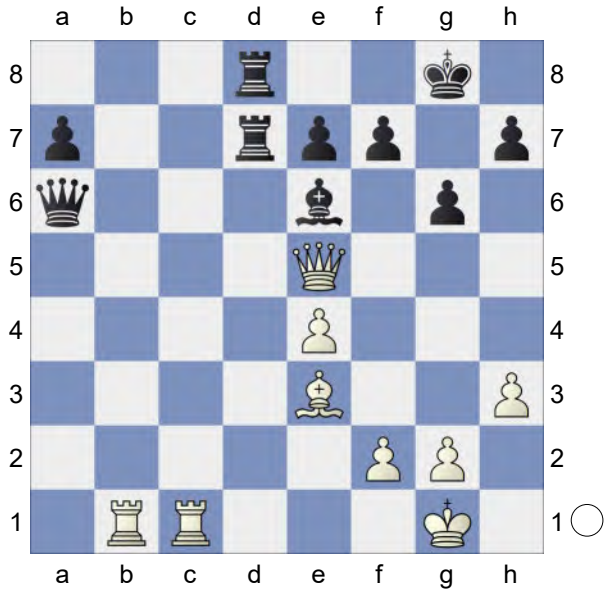


16.Bxe5 Qa5⇄ Black is not holding back **17.Bd4 Rfd8 18.Be3 Be6 19.a4 Qa6** Inhibits Rb7. **20.Rfc1** -0.16/23
[⌓20.Ra1 0.18/20]
20...Rac8

(Diagram)

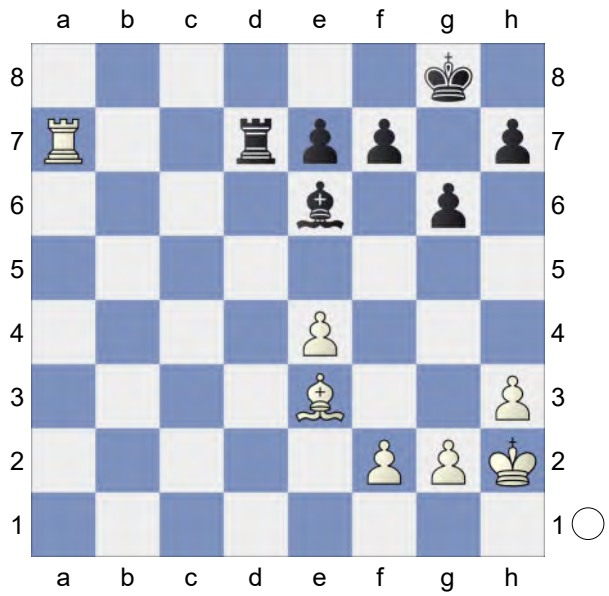


21.Bc5 Rd7 22.h3 Rcd8 23.Be3 c5 24.Qxc5 Qxa4 25.Qe5 Qa6

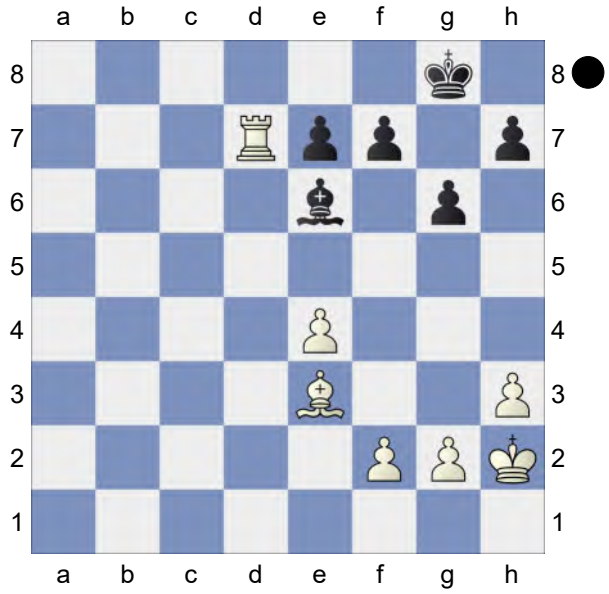


26.Ra1
[Reject 26.Bh6 f6 27.Qc5 Kf7∓]
26...Qd6 27.Qxd6 Rxd6 28.Rxa7 Rd1+ 29.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 30.Kh2 And now Bh6 would win. **30...Rd7**

(Diagram)



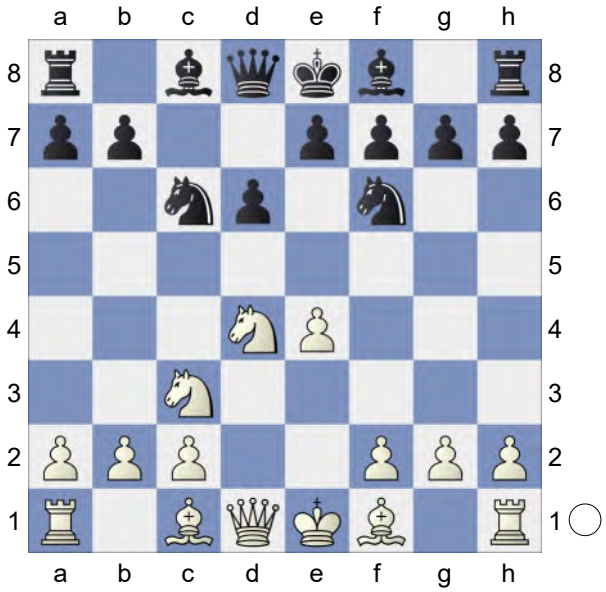
31.Rxd7



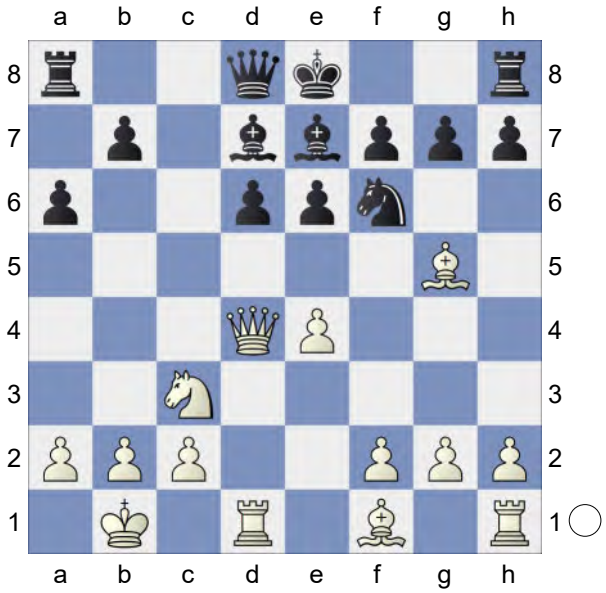
An even fight not without its subleties.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

32 **B67**
□ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
■ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
Tata Steel Challengers (5.4) 22.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

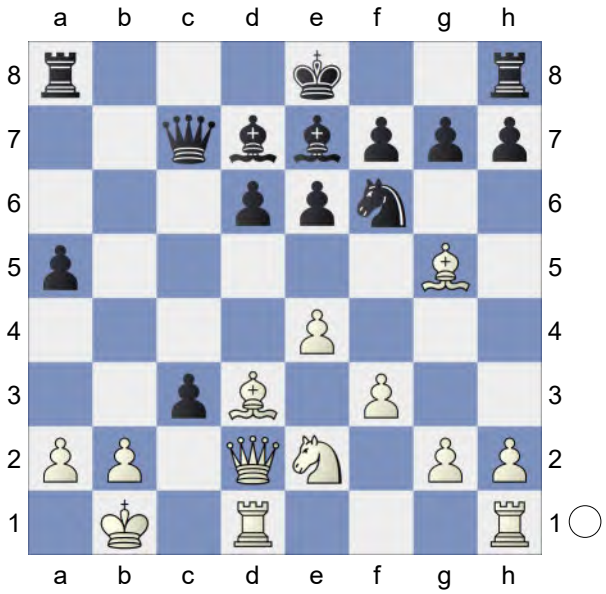
B67: Sicilian: Richter-Rauzer: 7...a6 8 0-0-0 Bd7, lines without 9 f4 Be7 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6**



6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.Kb1 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Be7

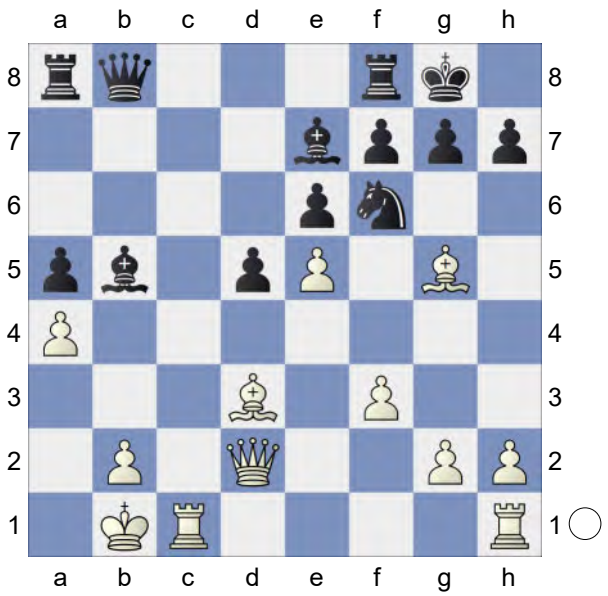


11.f3 Qc7 White has an edge. **12.Qd2** 0.17/14
[12.g4± 0.48/18]
12...b5 13.Bd3 b4 14.Ne2 a5 15.c4N -0.24/15
[White should play 15.g4 0.30/16 0-0 16.h4 Bc6 17.h5 Rfc8 18.Nd4 Be8 19.Be3 Nd7 20.g5 Nf8 21.f4 a4 22.g6 b3 23.cxb3 axb3 24.a3 Bf6 25.gxh7+ Kh8 26.h6 g6 27.f5 e5 28.fxg6 fxg6 29.Ne2 Nxh7 30.Rhf1 Adireddy,A (2301)-Nandish,V (2185) Chennai 2024 1-0 (67)]
15...bxc3=

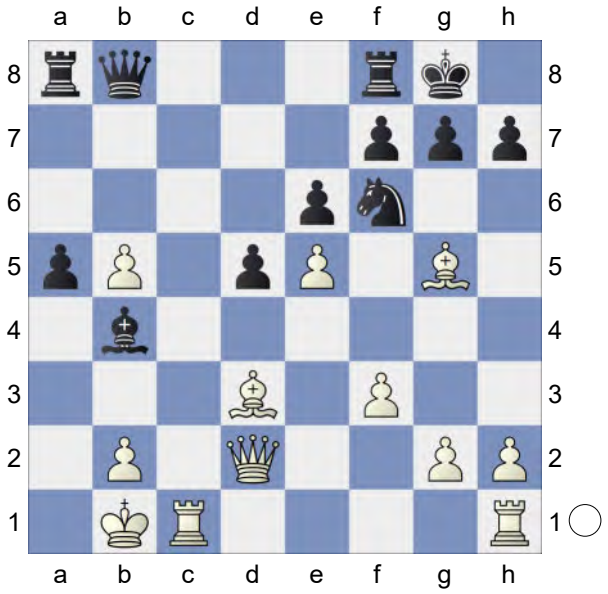


16.Nxc3 Qb7 Prevents Bb5. **17.a4 0-0 18.Nb5 d5 19.Rc1 Qb8** 0.29/19
[19...Rfc8 -0.06/18 deserves consideration.]
20.e5 Bxb5 0.71/22
[20...Qxe5= 0.17/20 21.Bf4 Qh5]

(Diagram)

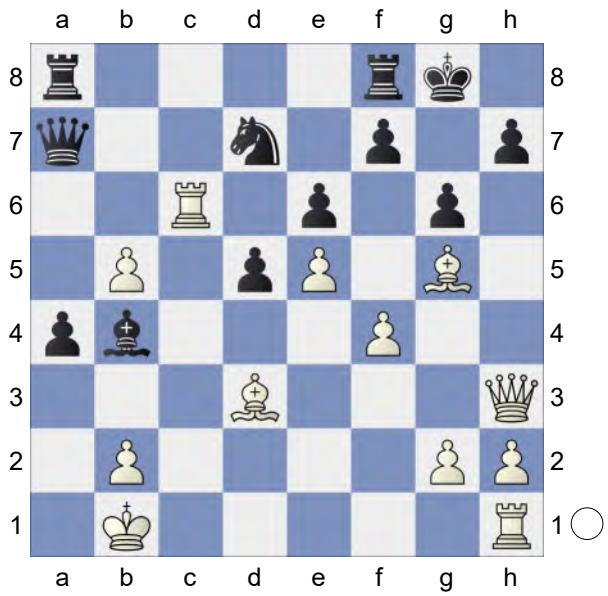


21.axb5± Bb4!

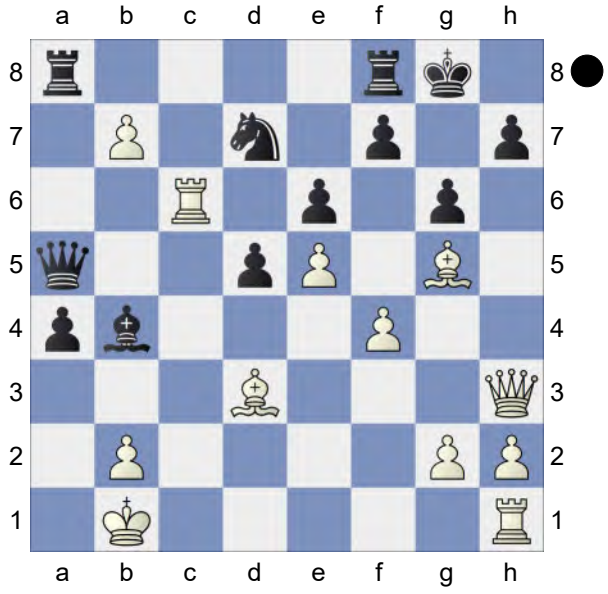


22.Qe3 Nd7 23.f4 Qa7 24.Qh3 -0.01/17
[24.Qxa7± 0.45/18 was preferrable. Rxa7 25.Rc6]
24...g6= 25.Rc6⇄ White is not keeping still **25...a4**

(Diagram)

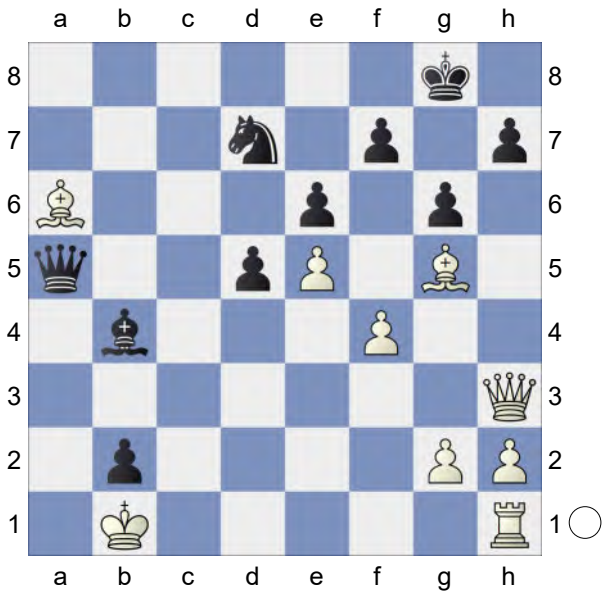


...a3 is the strong threat. **26.b6 Qa5** 0.38/19
[26...Nxb6= -0.01/18 27.Bxg6 fxg6 28.Qxe6+ Rf7 29.Rxb6 a3]
27.b7? -2.66/20
[27.f5!± 0.38/19 exf5 28.b7]



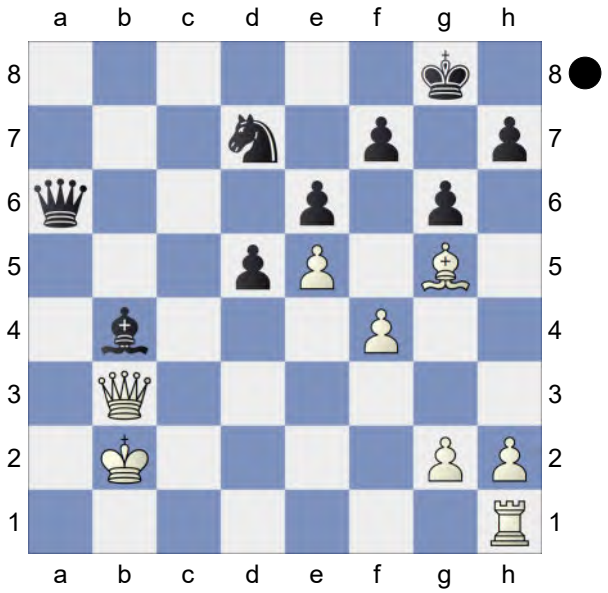
This costs White the game. **27...a3!-+**
And now ...axb2! would win. **28.bxa8Q**
[28.bxa8N Rxa8]
28...Rxa8 29.Ra6
[29.b3 a2+ 30.Kc2 Be1]
29...Rxa6 30.Bxa6 axb2

[30...Qxa6 31.Qb3 axb2 32.Qxb2∓]



31.Kxb2 Qxa6 Really sharp! **32.Qb3?** -5.55/18

[32.Rc1 -2.88/18 was called for.]

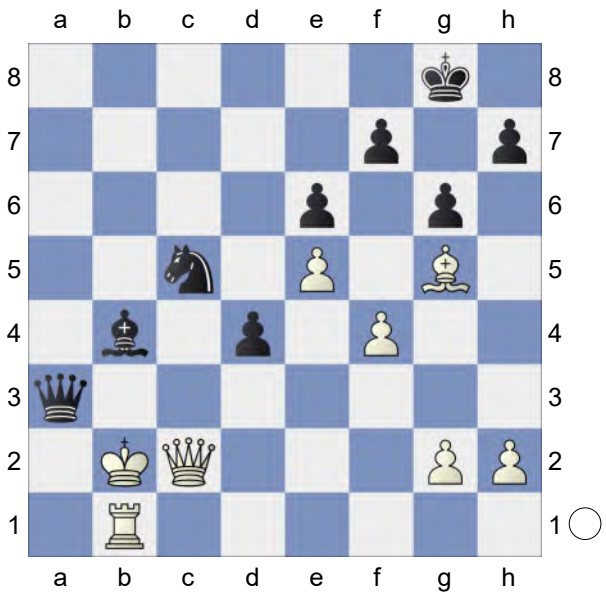


32...Nc5! 33.Qc2

[33.Qa2 Na4+]

33...d4 34.Rb1 Qa3#

(Diagram)

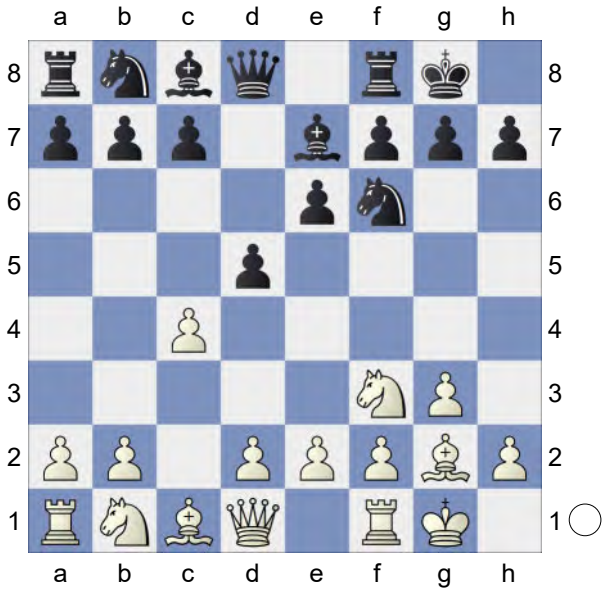


Weighted Error Value: White=0.90/ Black=0.10 (very precise)

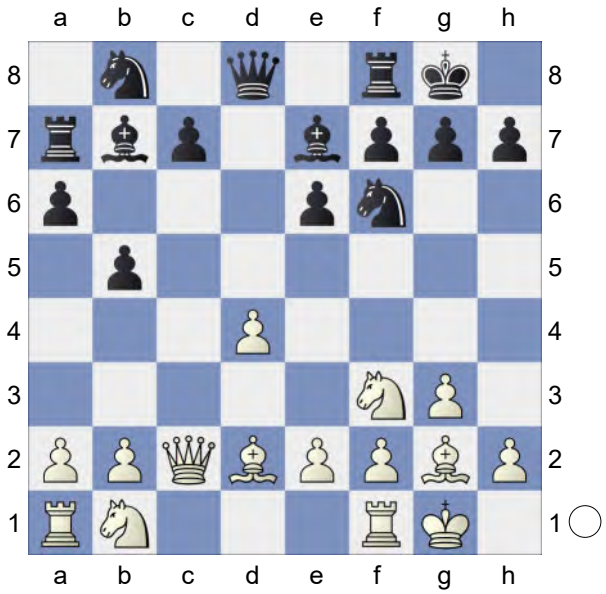
0-1

33 **A14**
□ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
■ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
Tata Steel Challengers (5.5) 22.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

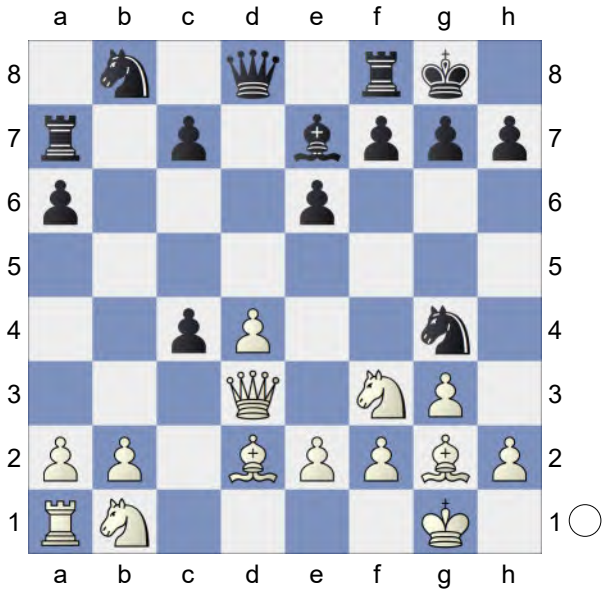
E05: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3 Be7 **1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0**



6.d4 dxc4 7.Qa4 a6 8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Bd2 Ra7



11.Rc1 Be4 12.Qb3 Bd5 The position is equal. **13.Qe3 Ng4 14.Qd3 Bc4 15.Rxc4 bxc4**



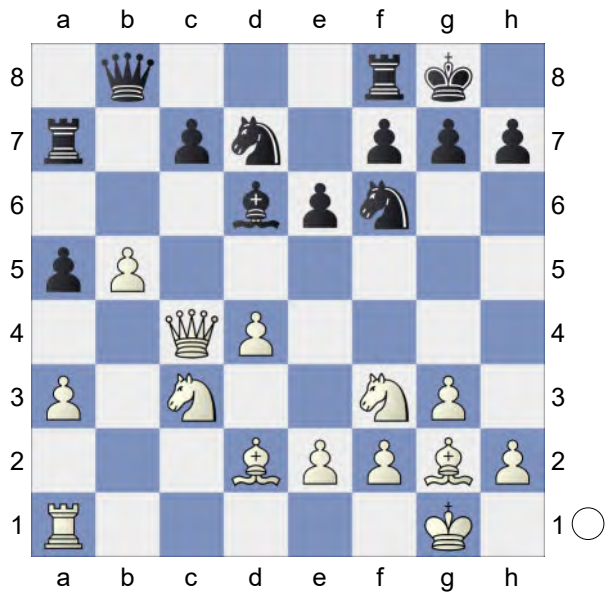
16.Qxc4 Strongly threatening d5! **16...Nf6** Inhibits d5. **17.Nc3** White has compensation. **17...Nbd7 18.b4** Inhibits c5. **18...Qb8N**

[18...c6 19.Na4 Qb8 20.Nc5 Qb5 21.Rc1 Rc8 22.e3 Qxc4 23.Rxc4 Bd8 24.Nb3 Ne4 25.Be1 Nd6 26.Rc2 a5 27.Ne5 a4 28.Nc5 Nxe5 29.dxe5 Nb5 30.Kf1 Be7 31.Ke2 Kf8 32.f4 Sakaev,K (2649)-Karjakin,S (2732) Russia 2008 CI1-130 [RR] (32)]

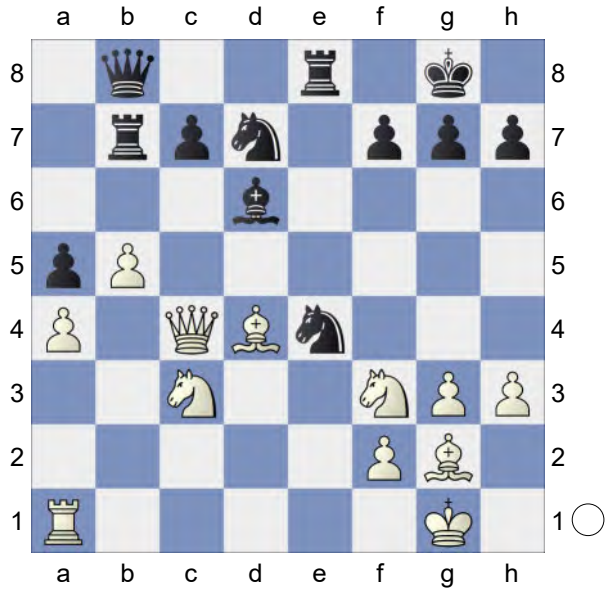
19.a3 a5 20.b5 Bd6 1.09/18

[20...h6⩲ 0.68/18]

(Diagram)

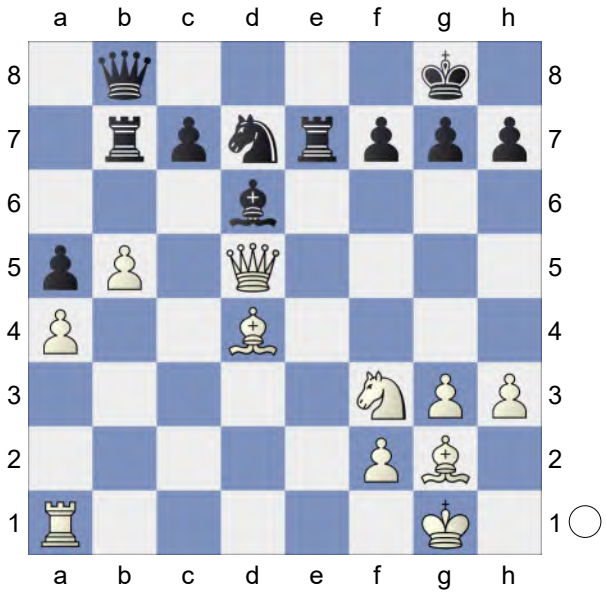


21.e4± e5 22.h3 Rb7 1.12/21
[Black should try 22...Nb6 0.77/19 23.Qa2 Nbd7]
23.Be3 &Bianco is more active. **23...Re8**
24.a4 exd4 1.52/20
[⌓24...Nb6 1.10/17 25.Qb3 Nfd7]
25.Bxd4 Nxe4 2.28/21
[25...Rb6± 1.40/20]

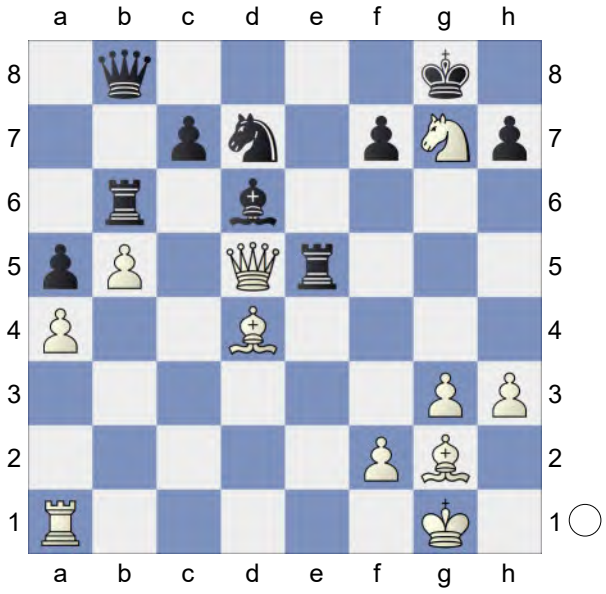


26.Nxe4 Remove Defender **26...Rxe4**
27.Qd5
[Don't play 27.Ng5?! Ne5 28.Qd5 Rxd4 29.Qxd4 Rb6+-]

27...Re7

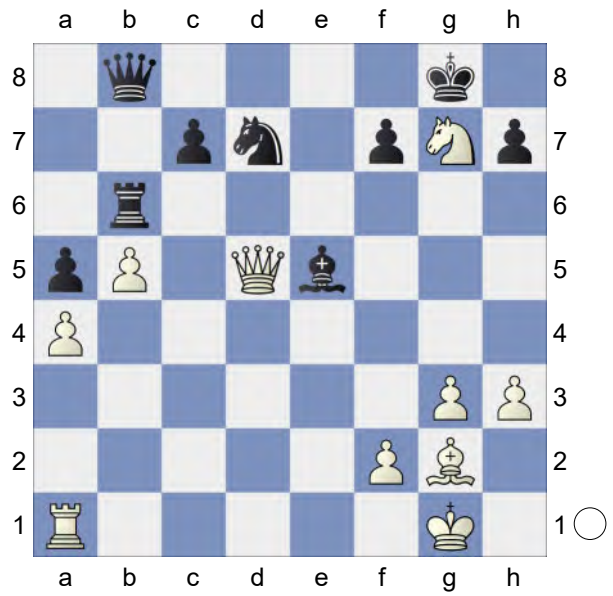


28.Nh4! Rb6 29.Nf5→ White goes for the king. **29...Re6 30.Nxg7 Re5**

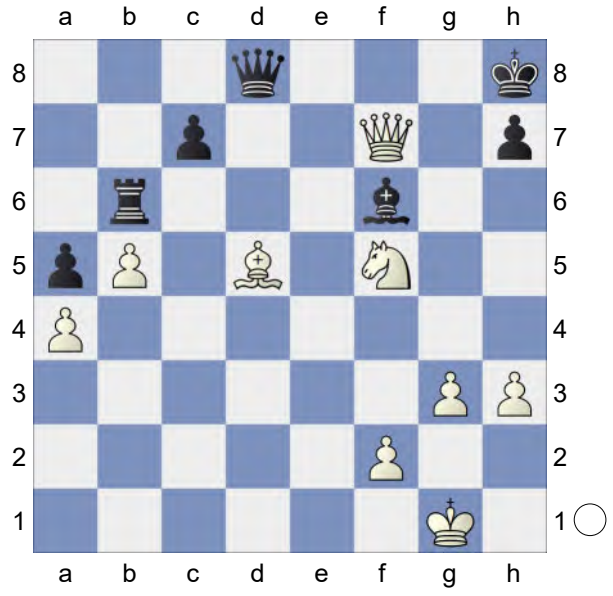


31.Bxe5 Bxe5

(Diagram)

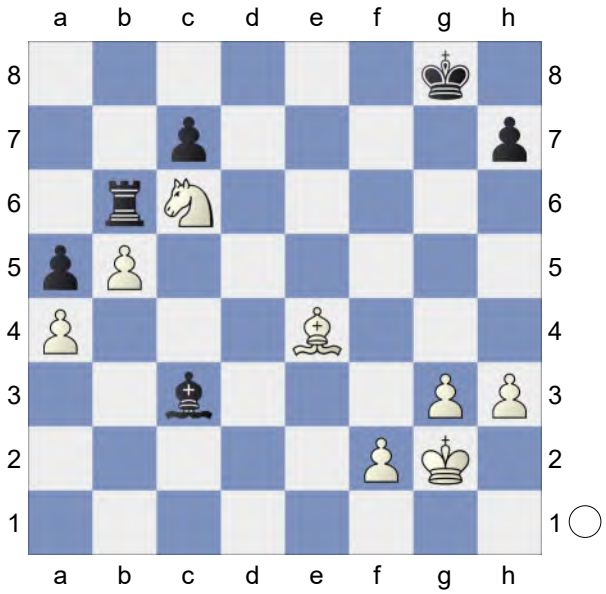


32.Qxd7 Bxa1
[32...Rd6 33.Qe8+]
33.Nf5 Hoping for Bc6. **33...Bf6?** 4.87/25
[33...Rf6 2.21/22 was called for. 34.Bd5 Kh8]
34.Bd5+- Qd8 6.07/24
[⌓34...Qf8 4.08/26 35.Nh6+ Kg7]
35.Qxf7+ Kh8

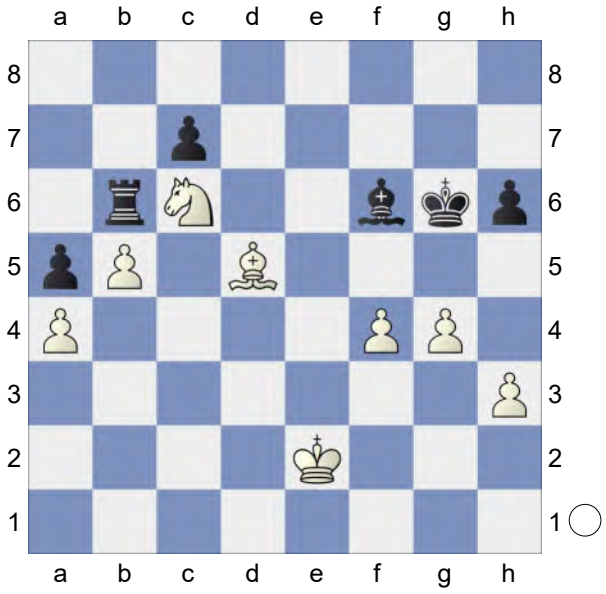


36.Be4 Threatens to win with Bc6.
36...Rb8 37.Kg2 Rb6 5.83/24
[⌓37...Qf8 3.96/23 38.Qxc7 Re8]
38.Nd4 2.73/26 **Qg8 39.Qxg8+ Kxg8**

Endgame KRB-KBN **40.Nc6 Bc3**

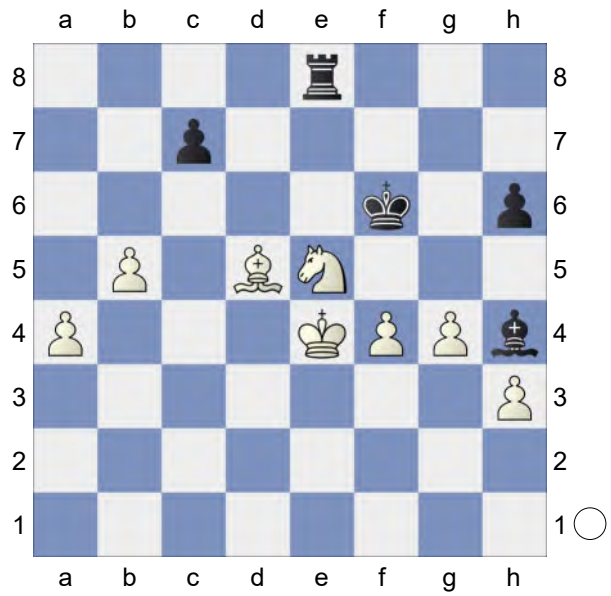


41.Kf3 Kg7 42.Ke2 h6 43.f4 Kf7 44.Bd5+ Kg6 45.g4 Bf6

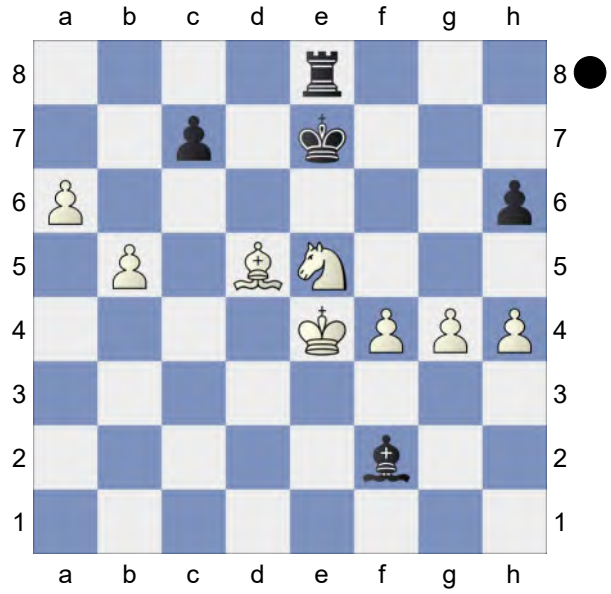


46.Kf3 Bh4? 5.19/25
[46...Bc3 3.13/22 47.Be4+ Kf7]
47.Nxa5 White is clearly winning.
47...Rd6 48.Ke4 Rd8 49.Nc6 Re8+ 50.Ne5+ Kf6

(Diagram)



51.a5 Bf2 52.a6 Ke7 53.h4

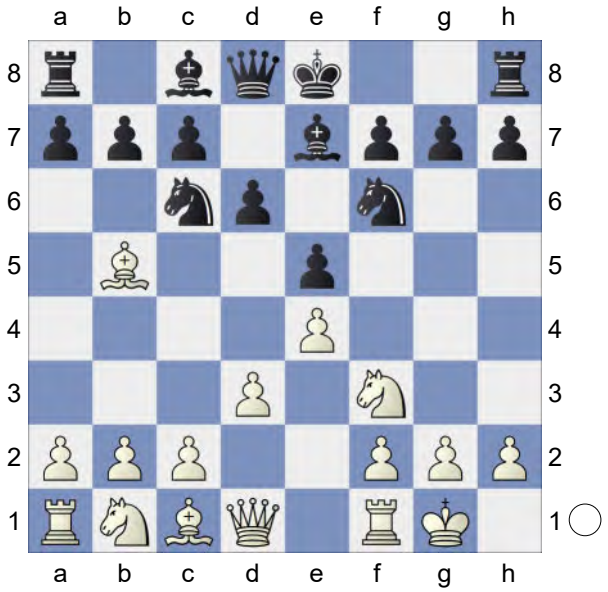


Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.36

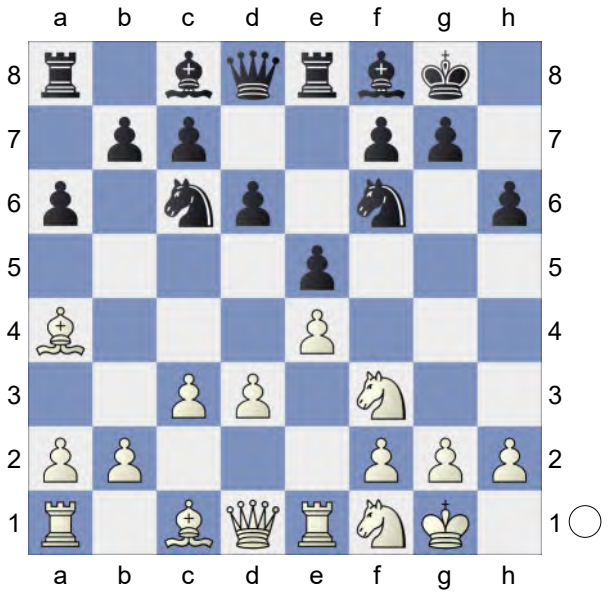
1-0

34 **C65**
□ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
■ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
Tata Steel Challengers (5.6) 22.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

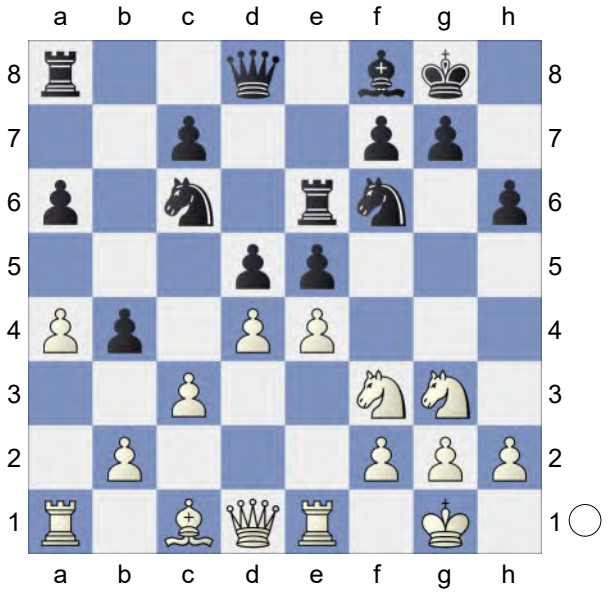
C90: Closed Ruy Lopez with 7...d6: Early deviations **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 d6 5.0-0 Be7**



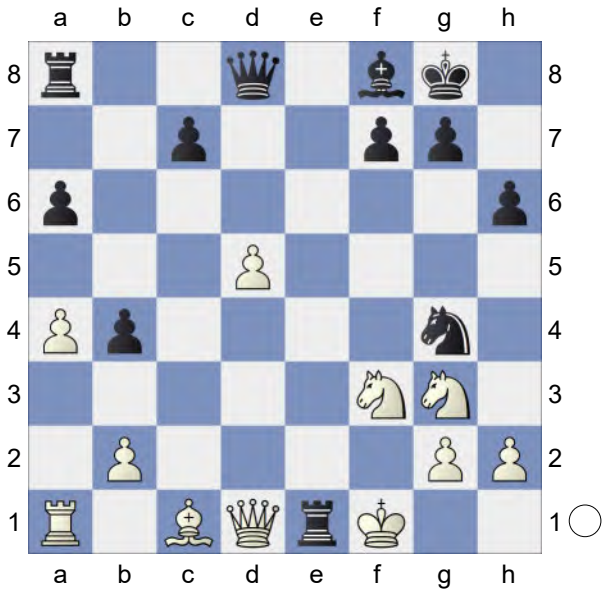
6.Re1 0-0 7.c3 a6 8.Ba4 Re8 9.Nbd2 Bf8 10.Nf1 h6



11.Ng3 b5 12.Bb3 Be6 13.a4 b4 0.38/19
[13...Bxb3= 0.00/19 14.Qxb3 Na5]
14.Bxe6!± Rxe6 White is slightly better.
15.d4! d5



16.dxe5 Nxe4 0.52/22
[16...Nxe5= 0.20/21 17.Nxe5 Rxe5]
17.c4! Nxe5 18.cxd5 Nxf2 19.Kxf2 Ng4+ 20.Kf1 Rxe1+



21.Qxe1 0.33/21
[21.Nxe1?! Qf6+ 22.Nf3 Bc5=]
[Better is 21.Kxe1± 0.74/20 Bc5 22.Qd3]
21...Qf6N 0.73/24

[21...Qxd5± 0.33/21 feels stronger. 22.h3 *(22.Qe4 Qd1+ 23.Qe1* ½-½ (25) 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 (2780)-Coll Sola,J (2721) Moscow 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [Grob NZZ-3 p17 FSZ#721] *)* 22...Nf6]

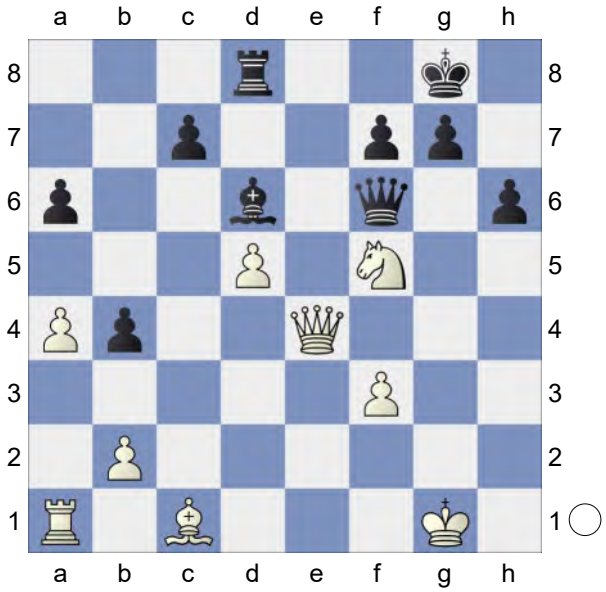
22.Qe4!± Nxh2+ 23.Kg1 Nxf3+ 24.gxf3

[24.Qxf3 Bc5+ 25.Kf1 Qd4=]

24...Bd6 1.31/21

[24...Rd8± 0.54/21]

25.Nf5 Rd8



26.Nxd6 0.69/23

[White should play 26.Kg2± 1.12/20]

26...Rxd6± 27.Qe8+ -0.01/5

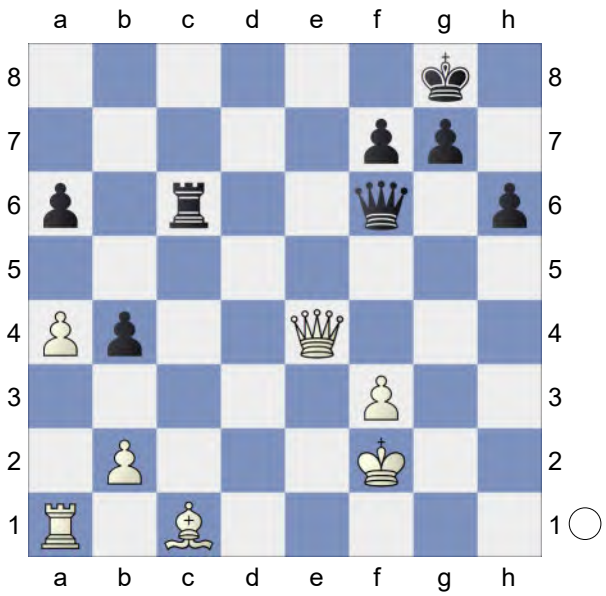
[27.Rb1± 0.55/25]

27...Kh7= 28.Qe4+ Kg8! 29.Kf2 c6 30.dxc6 0.01/21

[30.Qxb4± 0.44/21 Rxd5 31.Be3]

30...Rxc6

(Diagram)



31.Bd2

[31.Qxb4 Rc2+ 32.Ke3 Qg5+ 33.Kd3 Rxc1 34.Rxc1 Qxc1∓]

31...Qd6 0.96/22

[31...Re6!= 0.01/25 32.Qf4 *(32.Qxb4 Qe5=)* 32...Qxb2]

32.Bf4!±

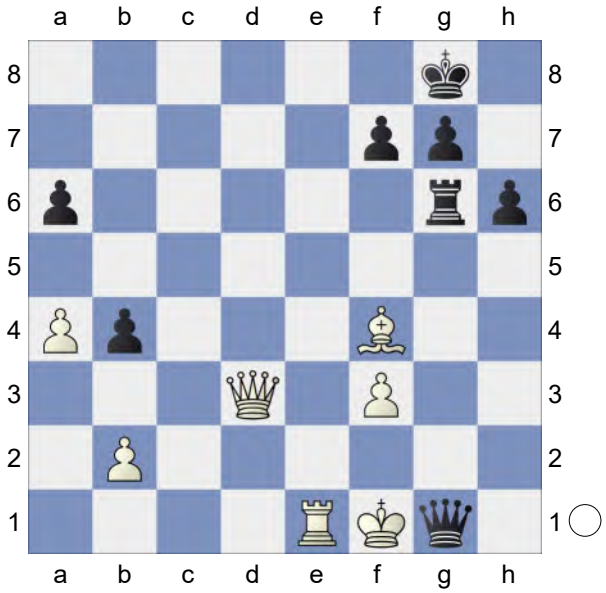
[32.Bxb4? Qh2+ 33.Ke3 Re6 34.Qxe6 fxe6-+]

32...Qc5+ 33.Kf1 0.01/23

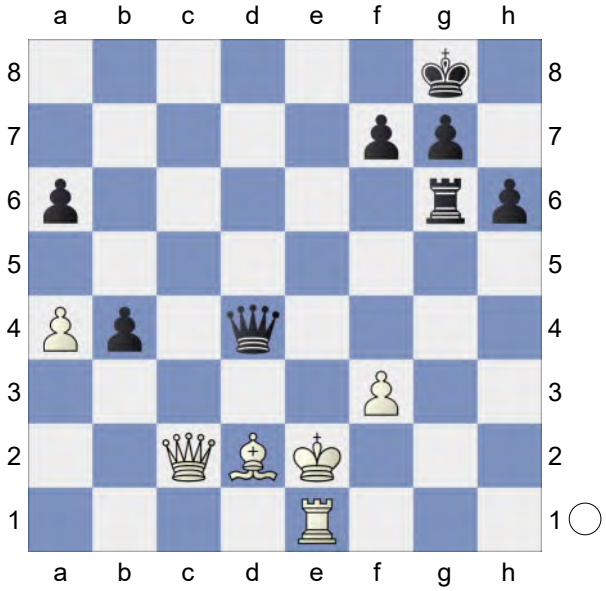
[33.Be3± 1.06/23 Qc2+ 34.Kf1]

33...Re6= 34.Qd3 Rg6! (→ ...Qg1+)

35.Re1! Qg1+

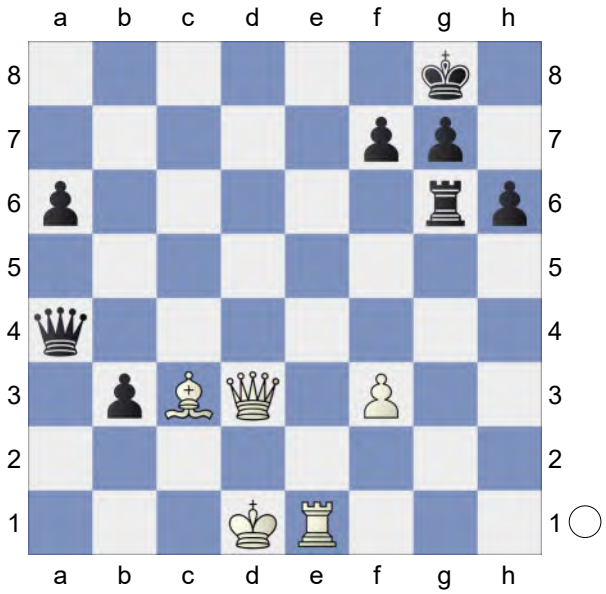


36.Ke2 Qg2+ 37.Kd1 Qxb2
Black wants to play ...Qa1+. **38.Qc2** -0.54/23
[38.Re8+= -0.01/23 Kh7 39.Re7]
38...Qd4+ -0.21/21
[38...Qa1+∓ -0.54/23 39.Bc1 Qd4+ 40.Bd2 Qd7]
39.Bd2 Qa1+ 40.Ke2!⇄ White is not holding back **40...Qd4**



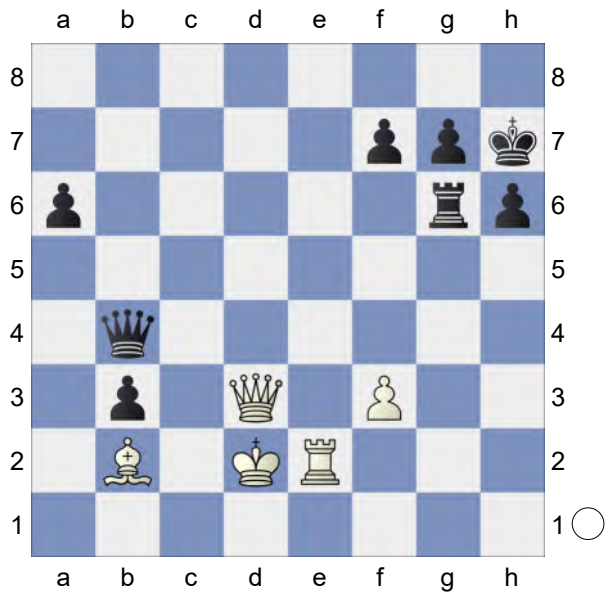
41.Kd1 Qa1+ 42.Ke2 Qf6 43.Qd3 b3 -0.20/22
[43...a5∓ -0.60/21]
44.Bc3!
[44.Qxb3? Rg2+ 45.Kf1 Rxd2-+]
44...Qh4 45.Kd1 Qxa4

(Diagram)

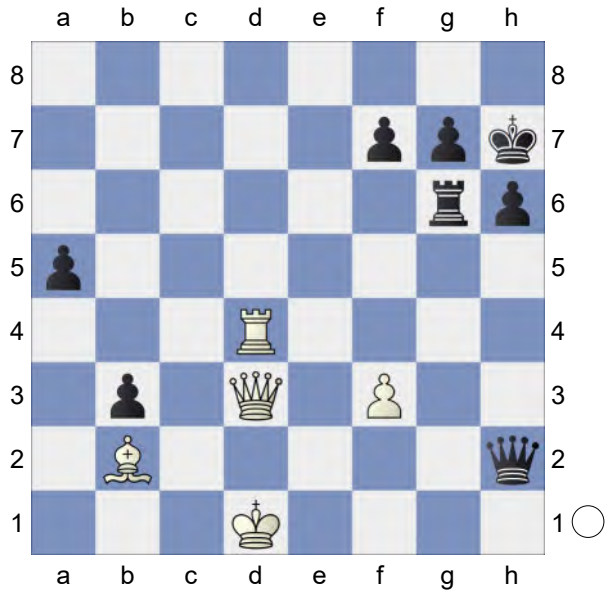


Hoping for ...b2+. **46.Bb2** -0.57/22
[46.Re4!= 0.01/23 Qc6 47.Kc1]
46...Qh4 -0.01/23
[46...a5∓ -0.57/22]
47.Re8+ Kh7 48.Re4 -0.51/21
[48.Bd4= -0.01/23]
48...Qh2∓ 49.Re2 -0.01/24
[49.Be5∓ -0.44/24 Qg1+ 50.Re1]
49...Qd6= 50.Kd2 -1.32/22
[50.Rd2!∓ -0.63/24 Qxd3 51.Rxd3]
50...Qb4+ -0.13/22
[50...a5!∓ -1.32/22 aiming for ...Qf4+. 51.Qxd6 Rxd6+ 52.Kc3 g5]

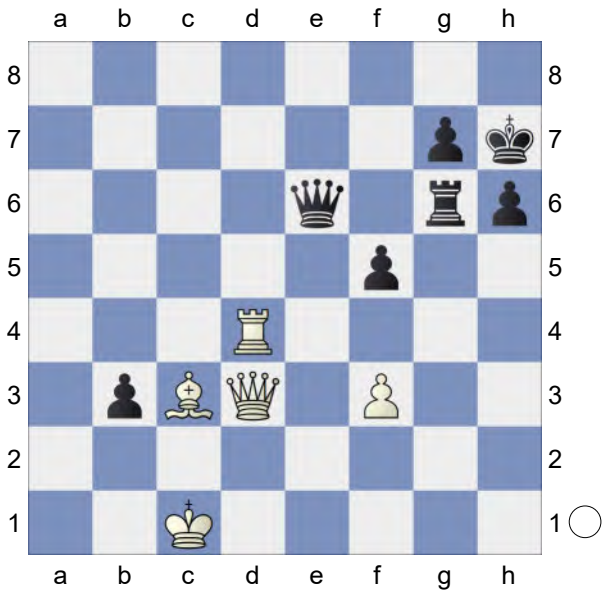
(Diagram)



51.Kd1
[51.Bc3!? Qf4+ 52.Re3∓ *(52.Kd1 f5∓)*]
51...Qd6 52.Kd2 Qb4+? 0.01/20
[52...a5-+ -1.62/22 53.Qxd6 Rxd6+ 54.Kc3 g5]
53.Kd1 a5 ...a4 is the strong threat.
54.Re4! Qd6 55.Rd4 Qh2 -0.01/23
[55...Qe6∓ -0.58/20 56.Bc3 Qa6 57.Qxa6 Rxa6]

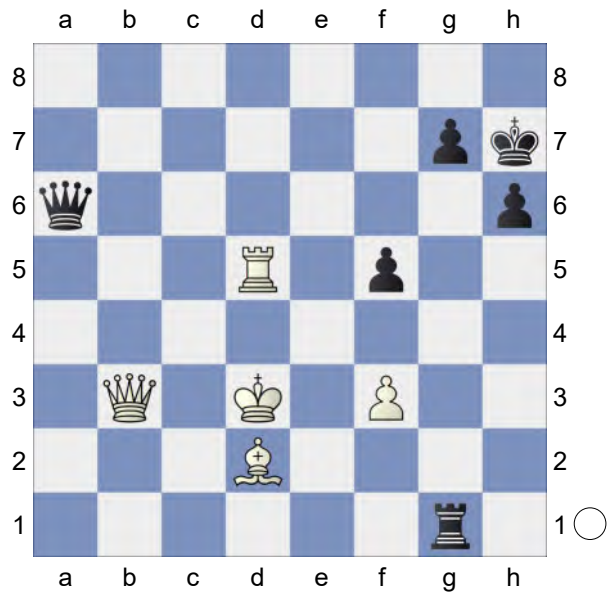


56.Kc1! Qc7+ 0.50/21
[56...Qh1+= -0.01/20 57.Kd2 Qh2+ 58.Kc3 Qb8]
57.Bc3± Qh2 58.Bxa5 f5 0.39/23
[58...Qa2!= 0.01/25 59.Bc3 Qa3+ 60.Bb2 Qa5 61.Qxb3 *(61.Kd1 Qa2=)* 61...Rg1+ 62.Rd1 Qg5+ 63.Kc2 Rg2+ 64.Kb1 Qg6+ 65.Ka1 Qa6+ 66.Qa3 Qxa3+ 67.Bxa3 g5]
59.Bd2!
[59.Qxf5? b2+ 60.Kb1 Qg1+ 61.Kxb2 Qxd4+-+]
59...Qe5 60.Bc3 Qe6



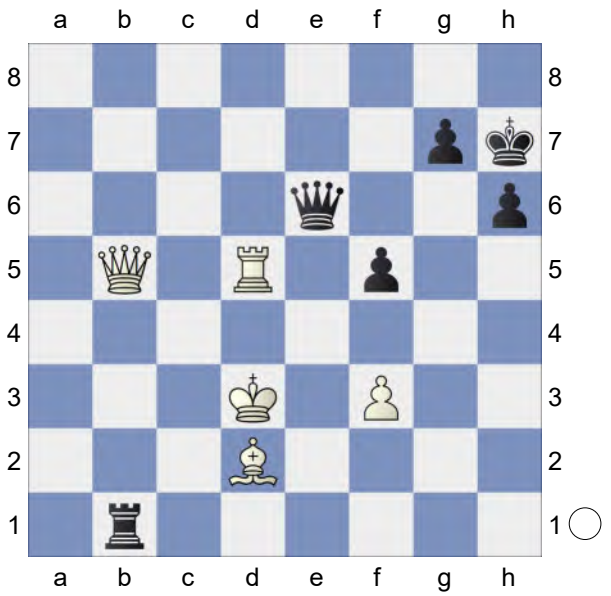
61.Rd5 Rg2 White must now prevent ... Rc2+. **62.Bd2**
[62.Rxf5 Rc2+ 63.Kd1 Rxc3! 64.Qxc3 Qxf5 65.Qxb3 h5∓]
62...Qf6 63.Qxb3
[63.Qxf5+? Qxf5 64.Rxf5 b2+ 65.Kxb2 Rxd2+ 66.Kc1 Rd6-+]
63...Rg1+ 0.79/21
[63...Rf2± 0.44/22 is more appropriate.]
64.Kc2± Qc6+ 65.Kd3 Qa6+

(Diagram)

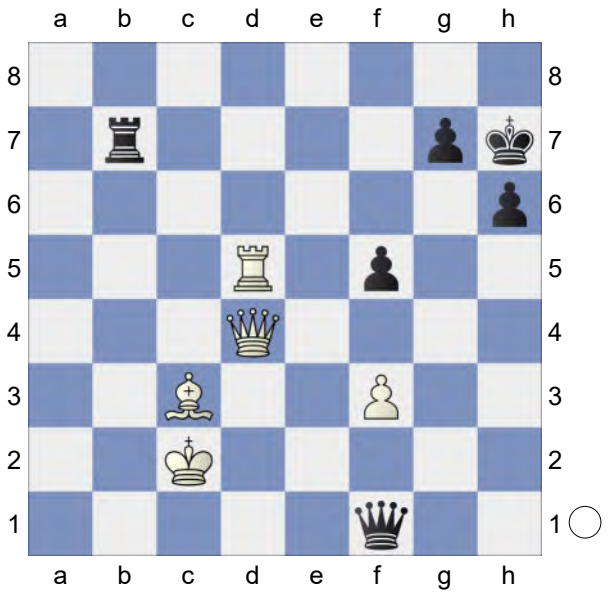


66.Ke3 Qa7+ 67.Rd4 0.52/21
[67.Kf4± 0.95/19]
67...Qe7+ 1.13/23
[67...Rg2± 0.52/21 68.Qd5 *(68.Bb4 f4+ 69.Kd3 Qa6+ 70.Kc3 Qa1+ 71.Kc4 Qa6+ 72.Kc3 Qa1+ 73.Kc4 Qa6+ 74.Kc3=)* 68...Qa3+ 69.Rd3 *(69.Kf4 Rg5±)* 69...Qe7+ 70.Kd4 Qf6+ 71.Kc4 Re2]
68.Kd3 Qe5 1.81/22
[68...Rg6± 1.29/19 was worth a try. 69.Qd5 Qf6]
69.Rd5 1.09/23
[69.Rd8 Rf1 70.Qd5 *(70.Qf7 Qb5+ 71.Ke3 Qe5+ 72.Kd3 Qb5+ 73.Ke3 Qe5+ 74.Kd3=)* 70...Qxd5+ 71.Rxd5 Rxf3+ 72.Ke2 Rb3=]
[69.Qd5+- 1.81/22 Qxd5 70.Rxd5]
69...Qe6 70.Qb5 0.71/21
[White should try 70.Rb5 1.08/23 Qa6 71.Bc3]
70...Rb1 1.43/23

(Diagram)

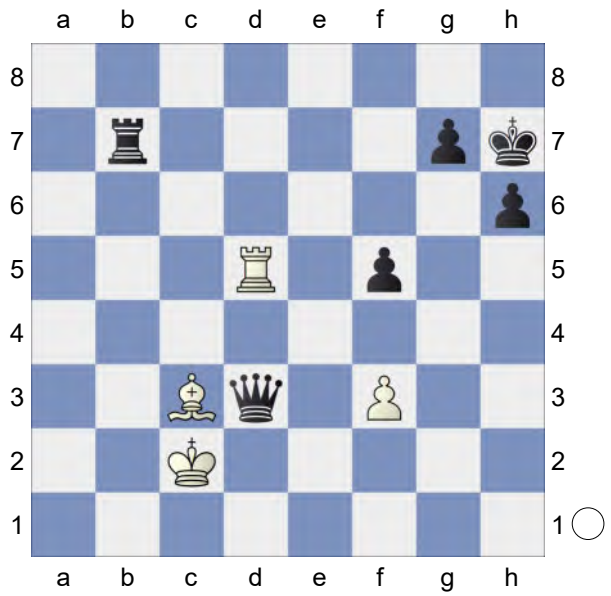


71.Qc5 Rb3+ 72.Bc3!
[72.Kc2?! Rxf3 73.Kb2 Rh3=]
72...Qe1 73.Qd4 Qf1+ 74.Kc2 Rb7

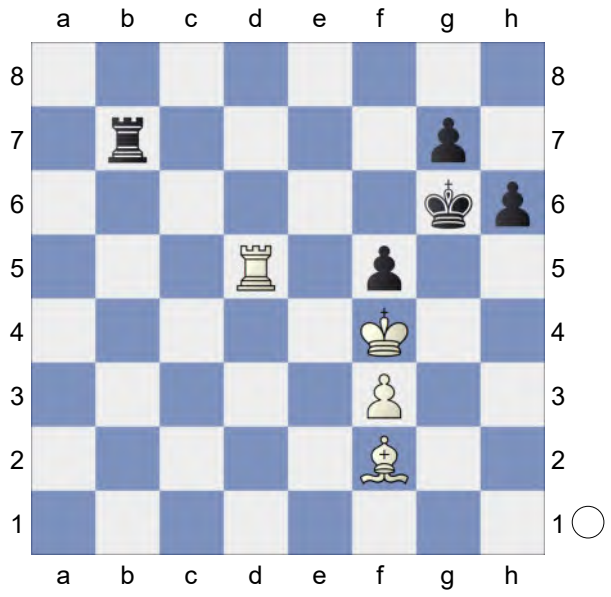


75.Qd3! Qxd3+

(Diagram)

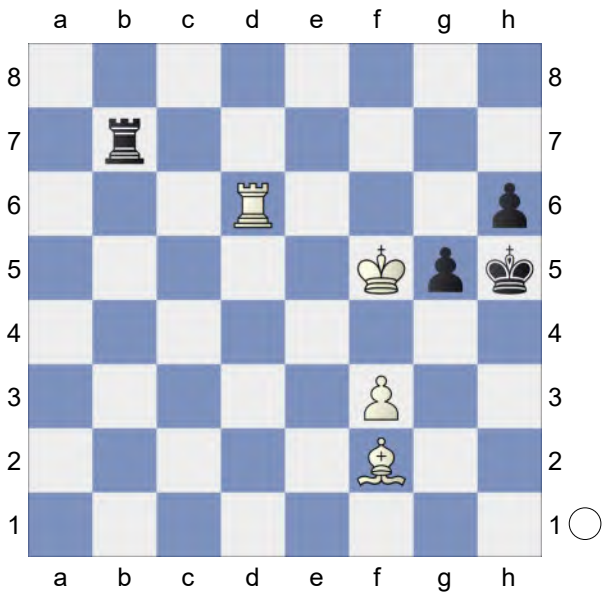


76.Kxd3 Endgame KRB-KR **76...Rf7 77.Ke3 Kg6?** 3.37/24
[77...g5± 1.35/23 78.f4 Ra7]
78.Kf4+- Rc7 79.Bd4 Rf7 80.Bf2 Rb7

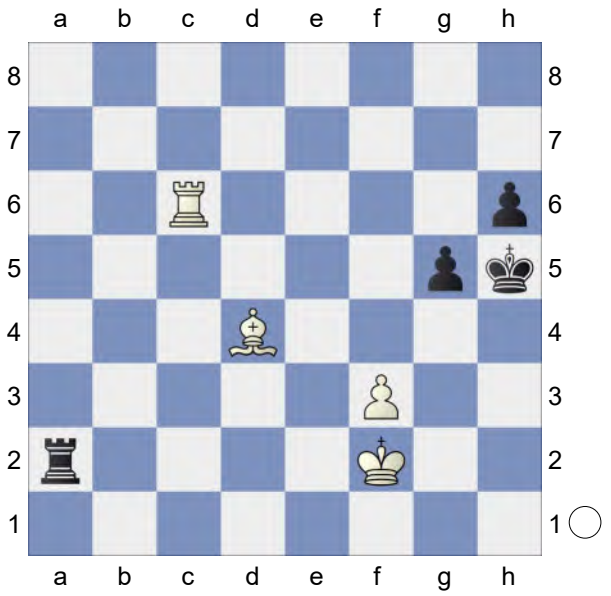


81.Rd6+
[81.Rxf5? Rb4+ 82.Ke5 Rb5+ 83.Ke4 Rxf5-+]
81...Kh5 82.Kxf5 Rf7+ 83.Ke4 Re7+ 84.Kf4 g5+ 85.Kf5 Rb7

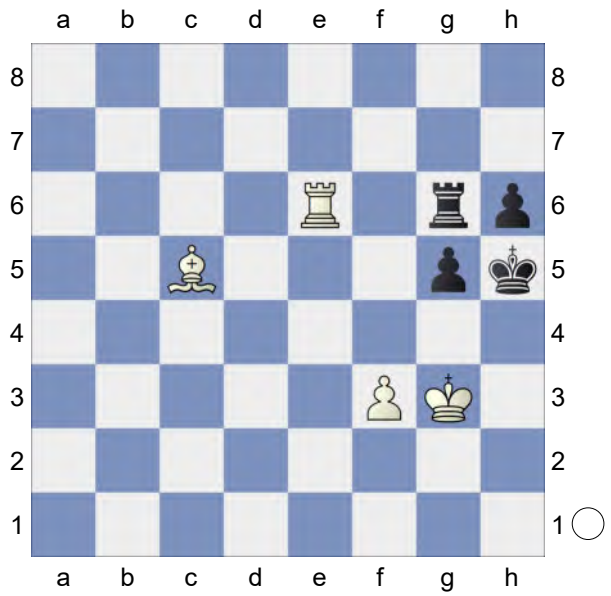
(Diagram)



86.Bd4 Rb3 87.Ke4 Rb4 88.Rc6 Ra4 89.Ke3 Ra3+ 90.Kf2 Ra2+



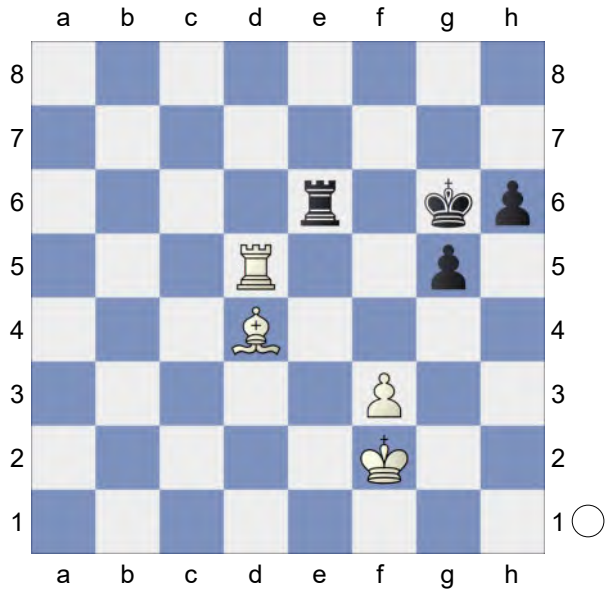
91.Kg3 Intending Bg7 and mate.
91...Ra3 92.Re6
[Less strong is 92.Bg7 g4±]
92...Rb3 93.Bc5
[Weaker is 93.Bg7 g4±]
93...Rb8 94.Rf6 Threatens to win with Bf8. **94...Rg8 95.Re6?** 0.01/22
[95.Ra6+- 2.78/23]
95...Rg6? 2.70/24
[95...Rb8!= 0.01/22 96.Ra6 Rc8]



96.Re5 Strongly threatening f4. **96...Rf6** Inhibits f4. **97.Be3** And now f4 would win. **97...Kg6 98.Rd5 Re6 99.Bd4 Kh5** 4.24/28

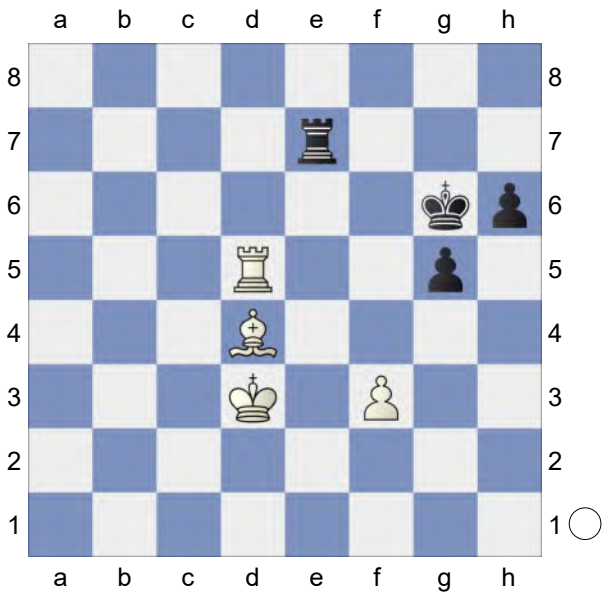
[⌓99...Rc6 2.71/25 100.Ba7 Ra6]

100.Kf2 Kg6

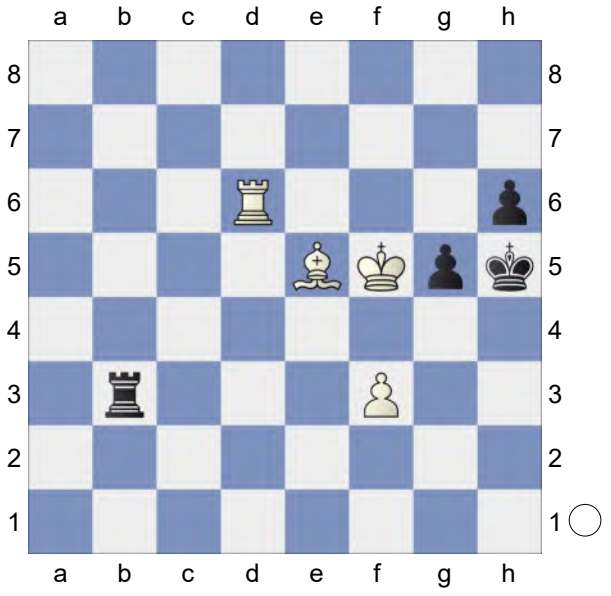


101.Be5 Kf5 102.Bb2+ Kg6 103.Bd4 Ra6 104.Ke3 Re6+ 105.Kd3 Re7

(Diagram)



106.Be5 Rb7 107.Ke4 Kh5 108.Rd6 Rb4+ 109.Kf5 Threatening mate with Rd2. **109...Rb3**

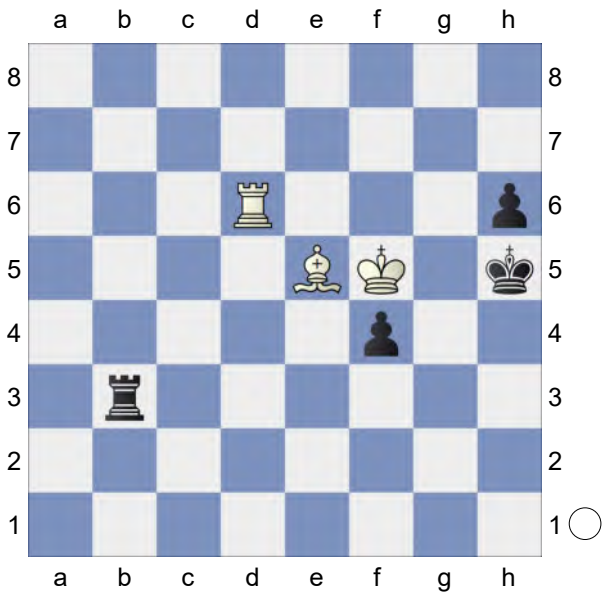


110.f4!

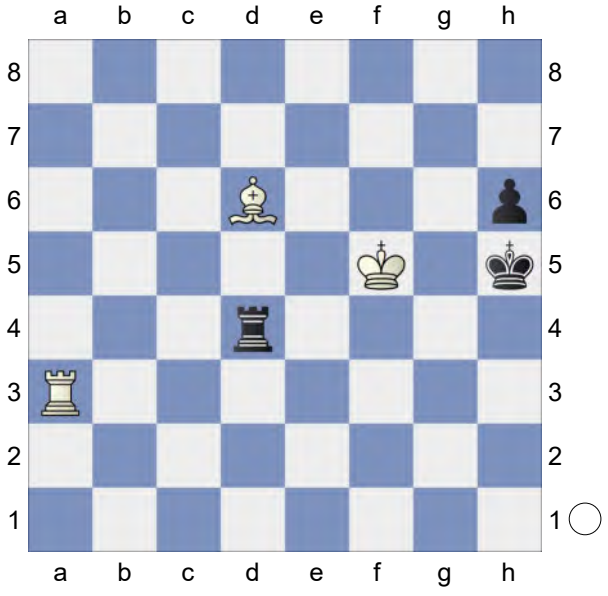
[Much less strong is 110.Ke4 Ra3 111.Rb6 Ra2+-]

110...gxf4

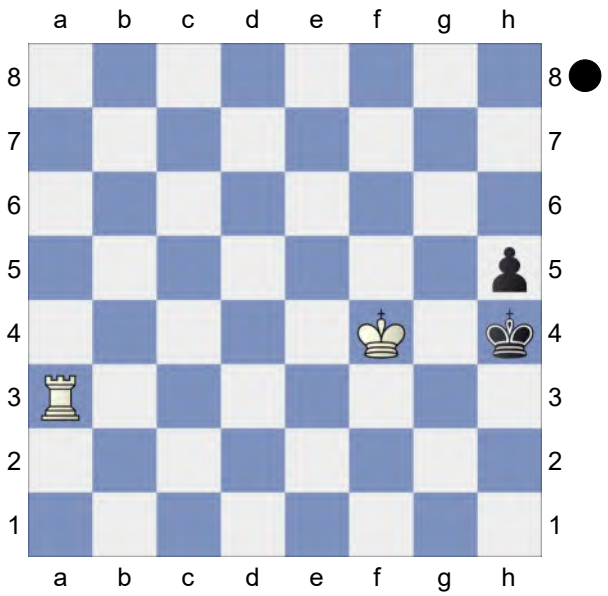
(Diagram)



111.Bxf4 Rb5+ 112.Be5 Rb1 2.65/29
[⌓112...Rb7 4.46/26 113.Rd2 Rb4 114.Rh2+ Rh4]
113.Rd3 Rb4 114.Ra3 Rc4 115.Bd6 Rd4? #23/27
[115...Ra4+- 2.50/27 116.Rh3+ Rh4]



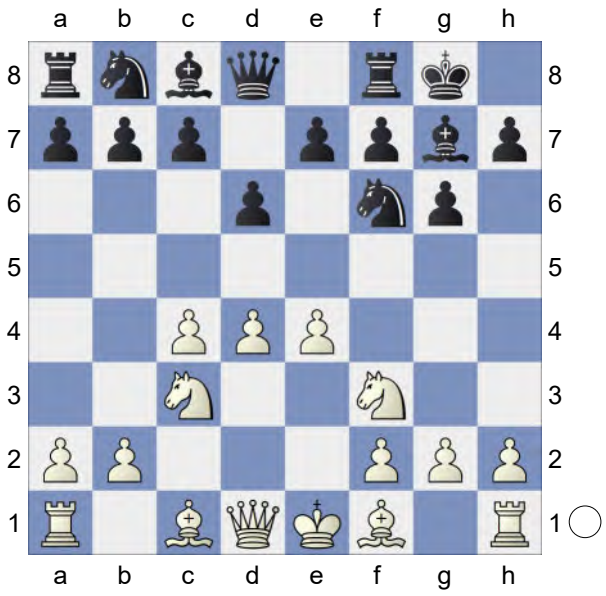
116.Bf4 Kh4 117.Ra6? 2.47/27
[117.Be5 #19/23 mates Rd5 118.Ra4+ Kh3 119.Ra2 Rxe5+ 120.Kxe5 Kg3 121.Kf5 h5 122.Ra4]
117...h5 118.Ra3 Rxf4+! 119.Kxf4
(Diagram)



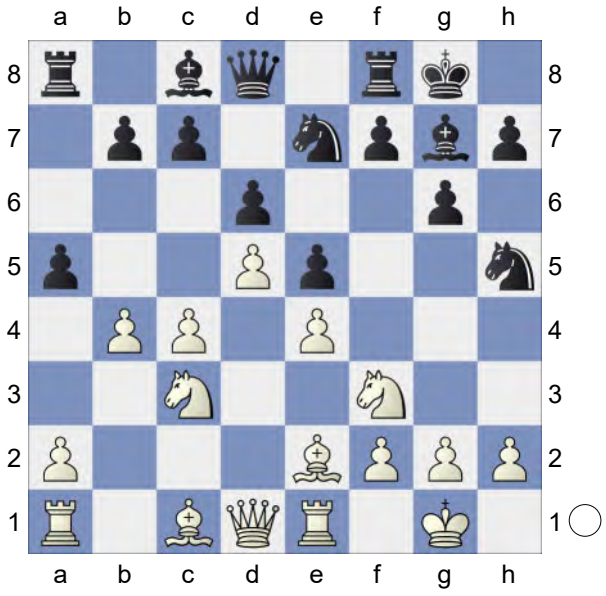
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.27 (precise)
½-½

35 **E97**
□ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
■ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
Tata Steel Challengers (5.7) 22.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

E97: King's Indian: Classical Main Line (6...e5 7 0-0 Nc6): 8 Be3 and 8 d5 Ne7, not 9 Ne1 **1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0**

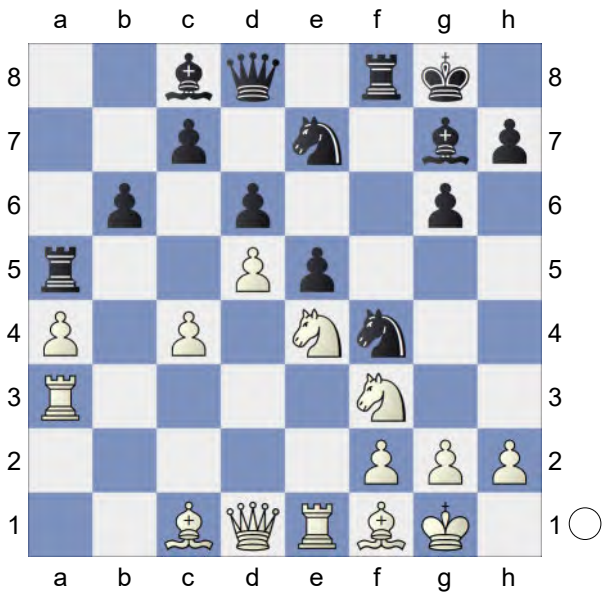


6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 Nh5 10.Re1 a5

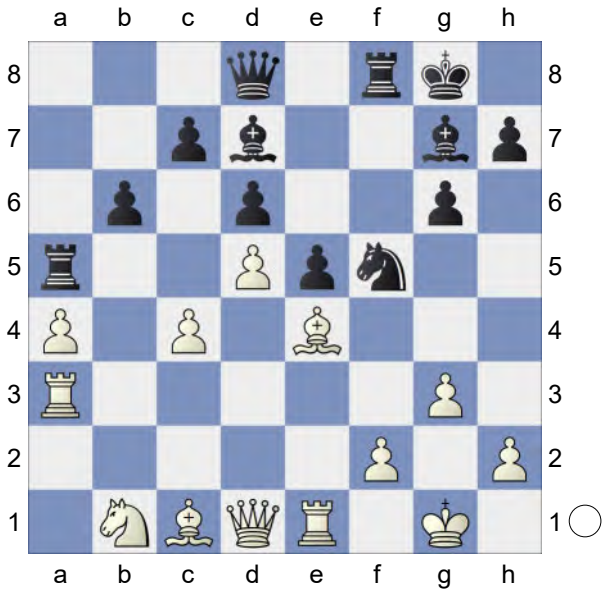


11.bxa5 Rxa5 12.a4 f5 13.Ra3 fxe4N
[13...Nf6
A) 14.Bf1 h6 *(14...fxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Rxe4 Bf5 17.Re1 Qd7 18.Bd2 Ra7 19.h3 h6 20.g4 Bxg4 21.hxg4 Qxg4+ 22.Bg2 Qxc4 23.Rc3 Qxa4 24.Qxa4 Rxa4 25.Rxc7 Nxd5 26.Rxb7* ½-½ (26) Lemos,J (2531)-16.Na4 Qb5 17.a3 Nb8 (2383) Baku 2008 ICCF Telechess [Westminster Papers xi Feb 1879 p221]*)* 15.Bd2 c5 16.exf5 Nxf5 17.Nb5 Ra6 18.h3 e4 19.Nh2 Re8 20.Ng4 Nh7 21.Bc3 Bxc3 22.Nxc3 h5 23.Ne3 Nh4 24.Nc2 Ng5 25.Nb5 Re5 26.Ree3 Bd7 27.Qa1 Qf6 28.Nc7 Ra7 Yuffa,D (2571)-Salem,A (2668) Abu Dhabi UAE 2019 [Vigorito,D] 1-0 (55);
B) 14.Nd2 c5 15.Bf1 Ra6 16.Rb3 Bh6 17.exf5 gxf5 18.Nb5 Ng6 19.Rh3 Ng4 20.Be2 Bg7 21.Nf1 Nf6 22.Bg5 f4 23.g4 e4 24.Nd2 f3 25.Bf1 Bxg4 26.Rg3 Bf5 27.Nxe4 Bxe4 28.Rxe4 Ne5 Mathurin,N (1872)-Baules Rodriguez,J (2343) San Salvador 2023 0-1 (40);
C) 14.Bd2 h6 15.exf5 Nxf5 16.Bd3 Ra8 17.c5 g5 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.Qc2 Nh5 20.g4 Ne7 21.Nxg5 Bxg4 22.Ne6 Bxe6 23.dxe6 Qb6 24.Nd1 Nf4 25.a5 Qc6 26.Qxc6 bxc6 27.Bxf4 exf4 28.a6 Gharibyan,M (2500)-Murzin,V (2604) Dubai 2023 Mega2023 Update 31 [Petrov,Marian] ½-½ (39)]
14.Nxe4 White is better. **14...Nf4 15.Bf1 b6**

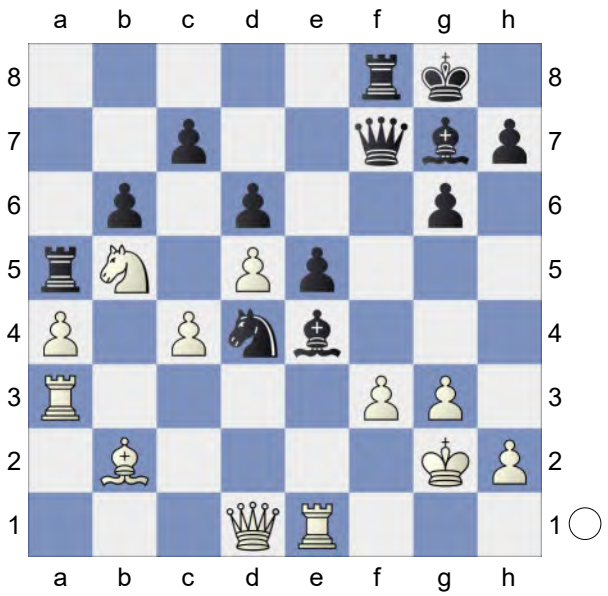
(Diagram)



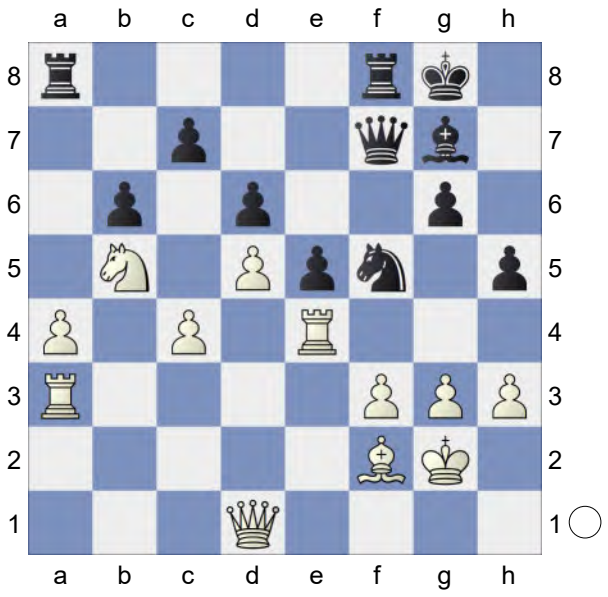
16.Nfd2 Bd7 17.g3 Nh5
[17...Nh3+? 18.Bxh3 Bxh3 19.g4+-]
18.Nb1 Nf6 19.Bg2 -0.01/22
[19.Nxf6+± 0.39/17 is superior. Bxf6 20.Nc3]
19...Nxe4= 20.Bxe4 Nf5



21.Nc3 Qf6
[21...Nd4 22.f3∓]
22.Nb5! Nd4 23.f3 -0.29/21
[White should play 23.Rf1 0.28/20]
23...Bf5 0.30/20
[⌓23...Bxb5 -0.29/21 24.cxb5 Rfa8]
24.Kg2 Qf7 25.Bb2 Bxe4

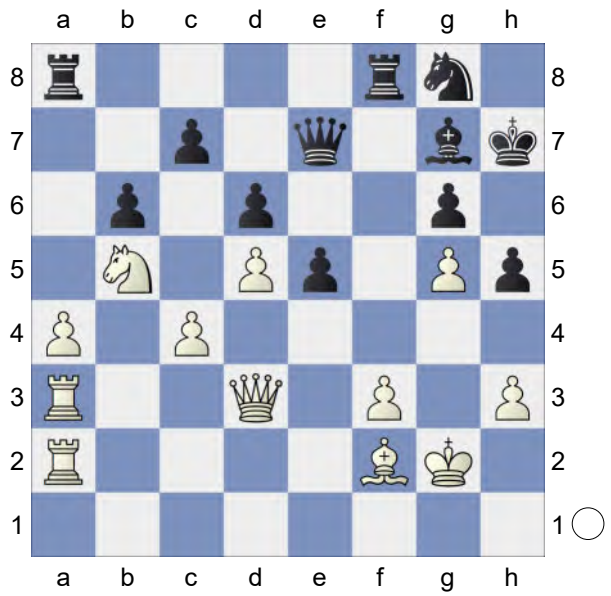


26.Rxe4 Nf5 27.Bc3 Ra6 28.Be1 h5 29.Bf2 Ra5 30.h3 Raa8 0.47/19
[30...Bh6= 0.06/20 feels stronger.]

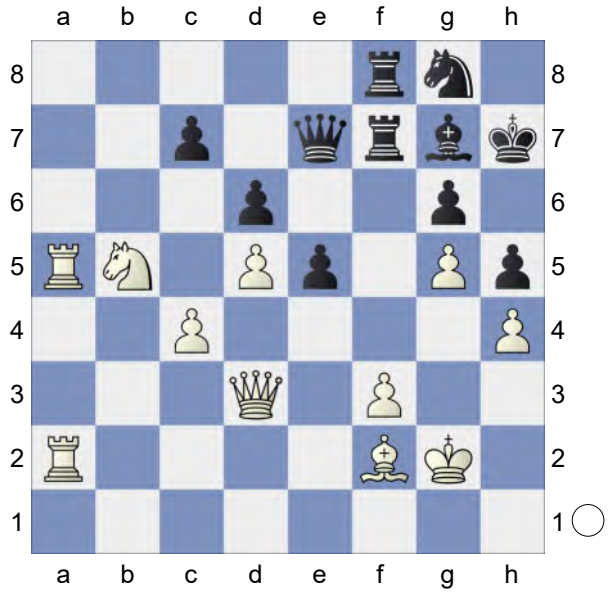


31.g4± Nh6 32.Qd3 Kh8 33.Re2 Ng8! 34.g5 0.01/23
[34.Bg3± 0.33/18]
34...Kh7= 35.Rea2 Qe7

(Diagram)

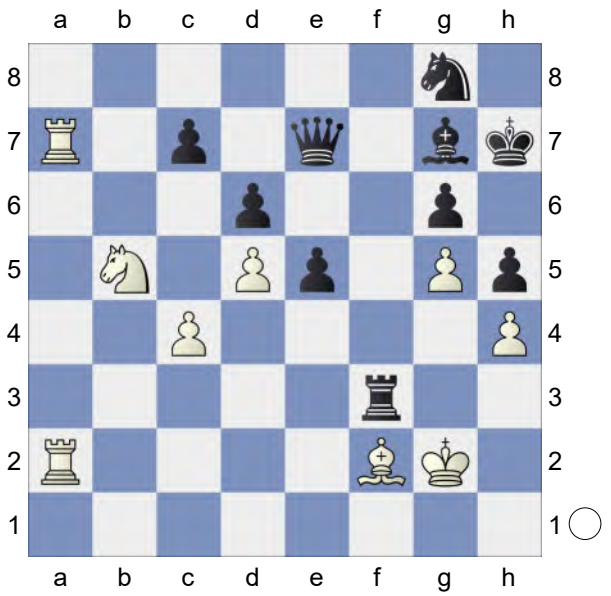


36.h4 Rf7 37.a5 bxa5 38.Rxa5 Raf8



Threatens to win with ...Qd7. **39.Ra7⇄** White is not keeping still **39...Rxf3 40.Qxf3 Rxf3**

(Diagram)



41.Kxf3 Qd7 And now ...Qg4+ would win. **42.Rxc7** Active counter play! **42...Qg4+ 43.Ke3** Really sharp! **43...Qf4+?** 2.13/25 Loses the game.

[43...Ne7!= 0.18/23 and Black has nothing to worry. 44.Rxe7 *(44.Nxd6 e4∓)* 44...Qf4+ 45.Kd3 Qf3+ 46.Kc2 *(46.Be3 e4+ 47.Kc2 Qe2+ 48.Kb3 Qd3+ 49.Kb4 Qb1+ 50.Ka3 Qd3+ 51.Kb4 Qb1+ 52.Ka3 Qd3+ 53.Kb4=)* 46...Qxf2+ 47.Kb3 Qg3+ 48.Ka4 Qxh4]

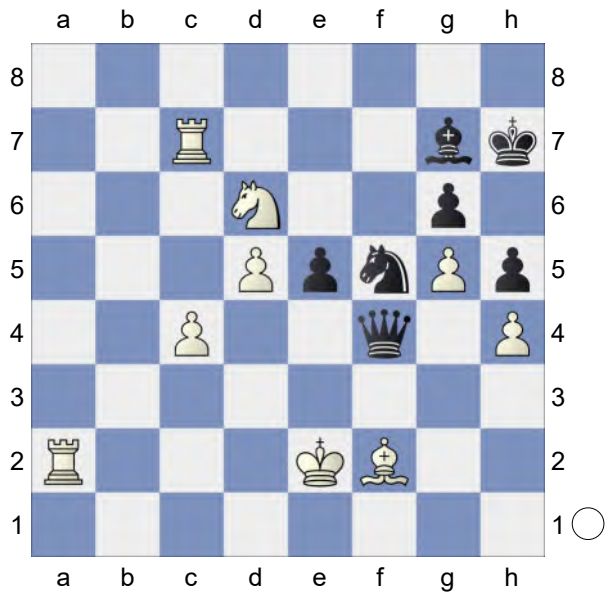
44.Ke2+- Ne7? 4.18/24

[44...Qe4+ 1.93/25 was called for. 45.Kd2 Qf3]

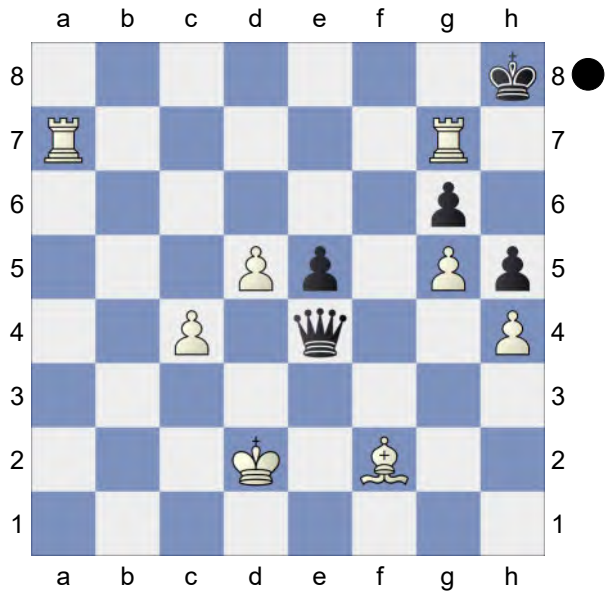
45.Nxd6 Nf5 11.50/26

[⌓45...e4 4.16/24 46.Rxe7 Qf3+ 47.Ke1 Qh1+ 48.Kd2 Qb1 49.Rxg7+ Kxg7 50.Bd4+ Kf8]

(Diagram)

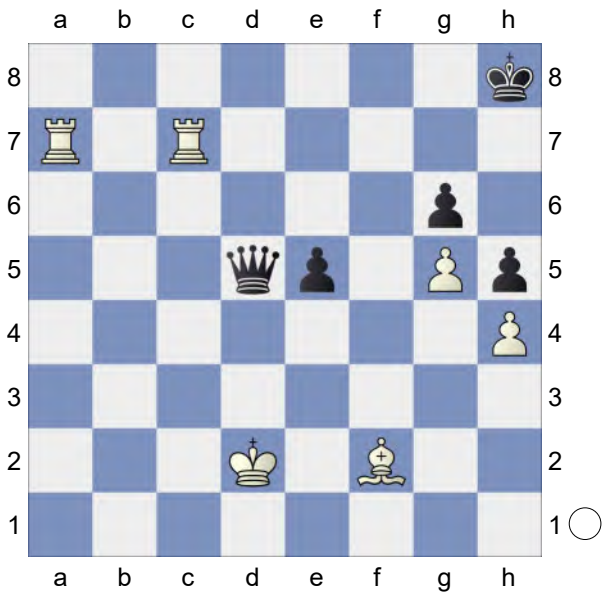


46.Nxf5 Qxf5 47.Raa7 Qe4+ 48.Kd2 Kh8 49.Rxg7

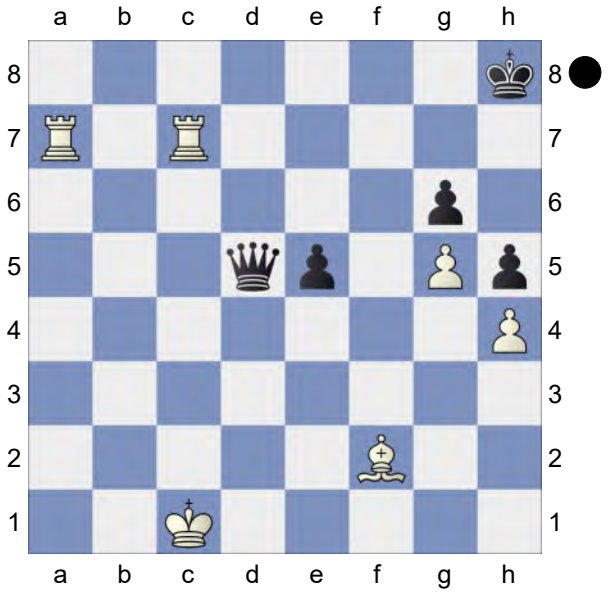


Threatening mate with Rh7+. **49...Qxc4 50.Rgc7 Qxd5+**

(Diagram)



51.Kc1

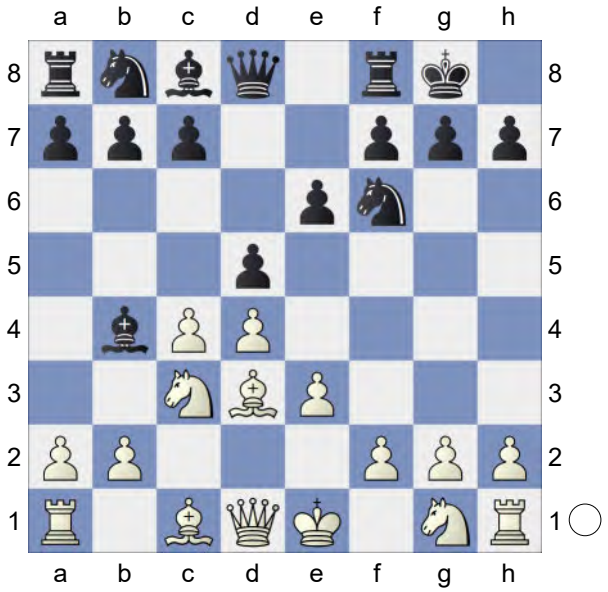


Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.52

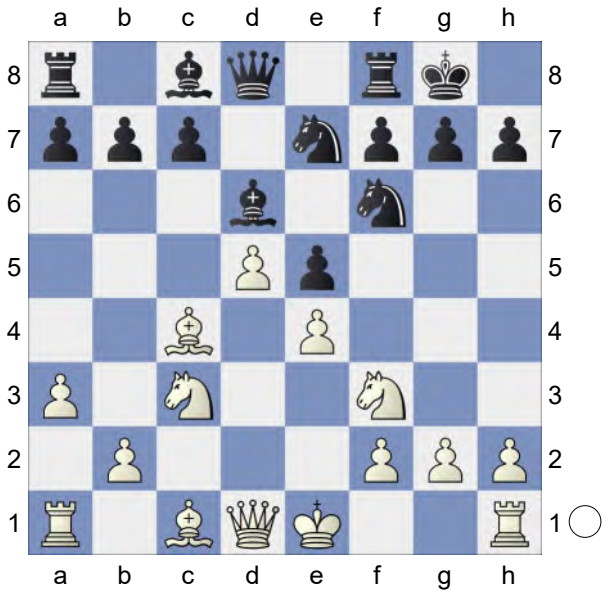
1-0

36 **E48**
□ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
■ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
Tata Steel Challengers (6.1) 24.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

E51: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: 4...0-0 5 Nf3 d5 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5**

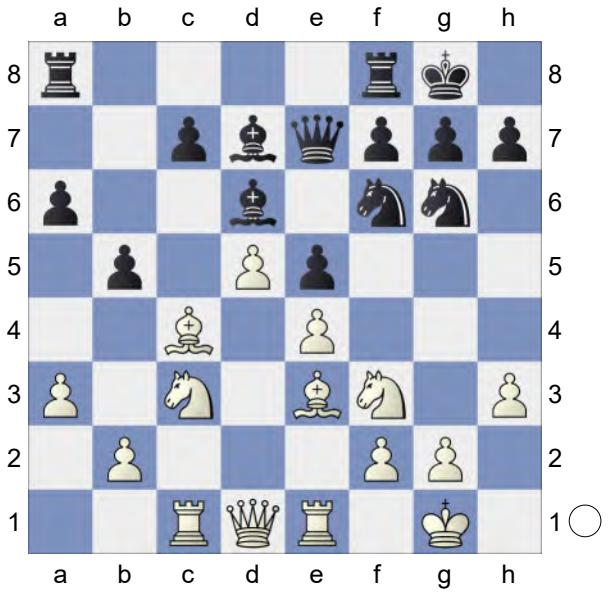


6.a3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 Bd6 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.e4 e5! 10.d5 Ne7



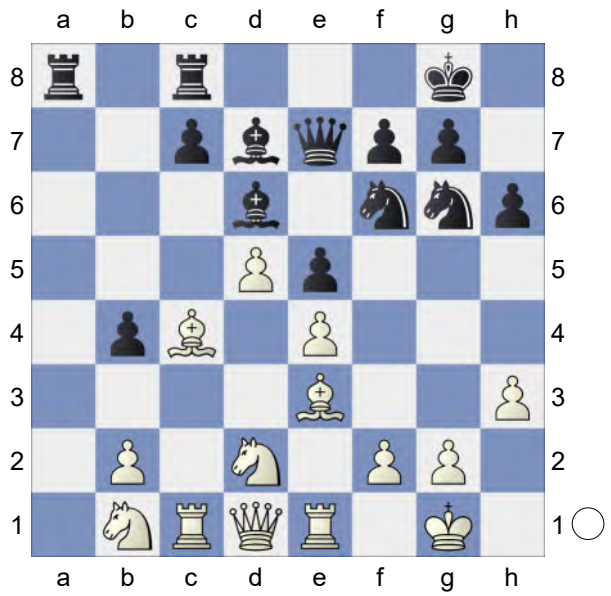
11.h3N

[11.0-0 Ng6 *(11...h6 12.h3 a6 13.Be3 Bd7 14.Qc2 Ng6 15.Rfd1 Nh5 16.Bf1 Nhf4 17.Rac1 f5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Ne4 Qd7 20.Kh2 Rf7 21.Nfd2 Raf8 22.Qb3 b5 23.Rc6 Nh4 24.Nxd6 cxd6 25.Bxf4 exf4 26.Rxa6* Eljanov,P (2716) - Karjakin,S (2717) Jermuk 106/160 2009 CI1-130 [Cvetkovic,Srdjan]*)* 12.Re1 h6 13.Bf1 a6 14.b4 Bg4 15.h3 Bd7 16.Be3 Nh7 17.Rc1 Qf6 18.g3 Berkes,F (2578)-Sax,G (2511) Magyarorszag (ch) 87/(461) 2003 CI1-130 [RR]]
[11.Be3 Ng6 12.0-0 a6 13.h3 Nimzo Indian Alternative-6...Bxc3 7. Bxc3 Ne4 8.Ne2 b6 Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023]
11...Ng6 12.0-0 White is slightly better.
12...a6 13.Re1 0.15/20
[13.a4± 0.48/19]
13...Bd7 14.Be3 Qe7 15.Rc1 b5

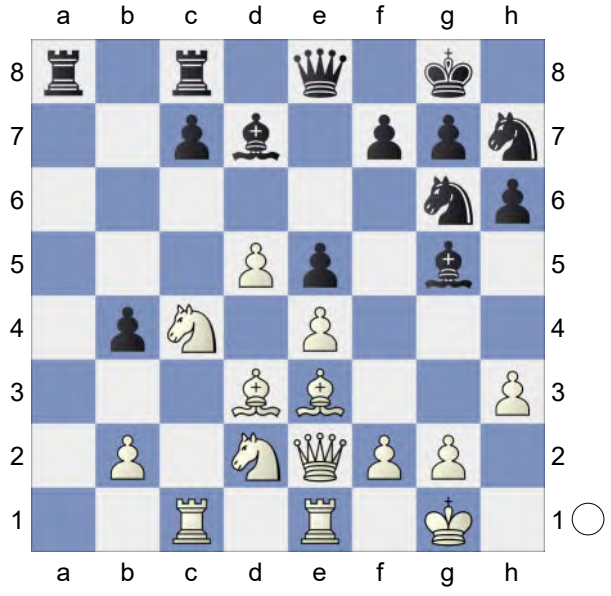


16.Ba2 a5 17.Nd2 b4 18.Ncb1 h6 19.axb4 axb4 20.Bc4 Rfc8

(Diagram)

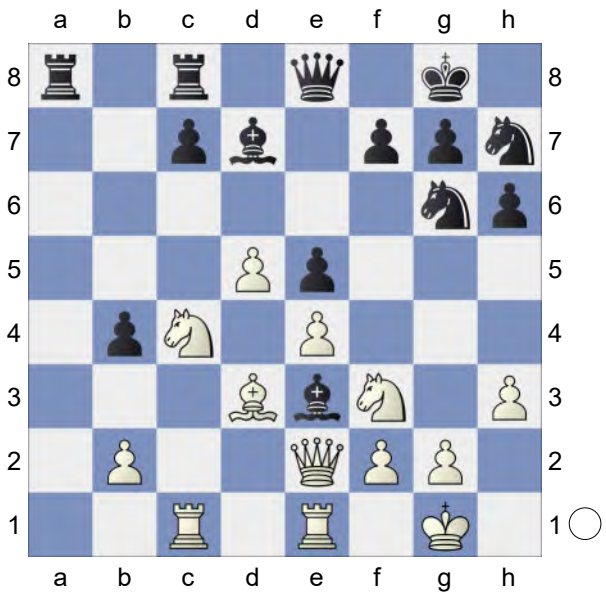


21.Qe2 Qe8 22.Bd3 Nh7 0.62/19
[22...Qe7= 0.01/22]
23.Nc4± Be7 0.78/20
[23...Bf8± 0.47/20]
24.Nbd2± Bg5

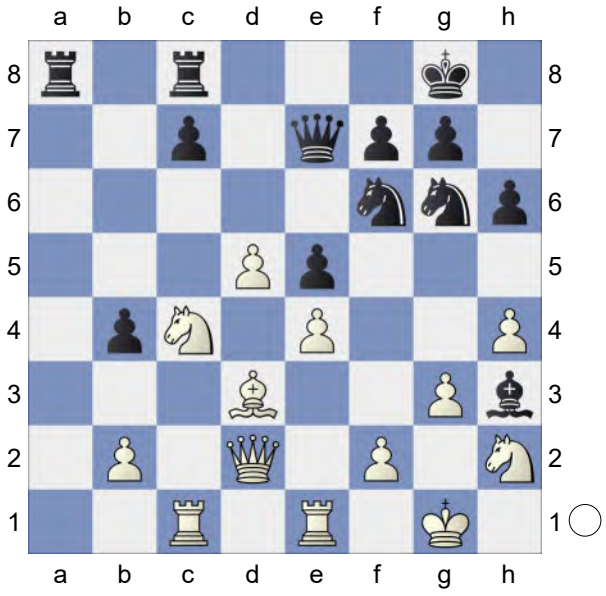


25.Nf3! Bxe3

(Diagram)

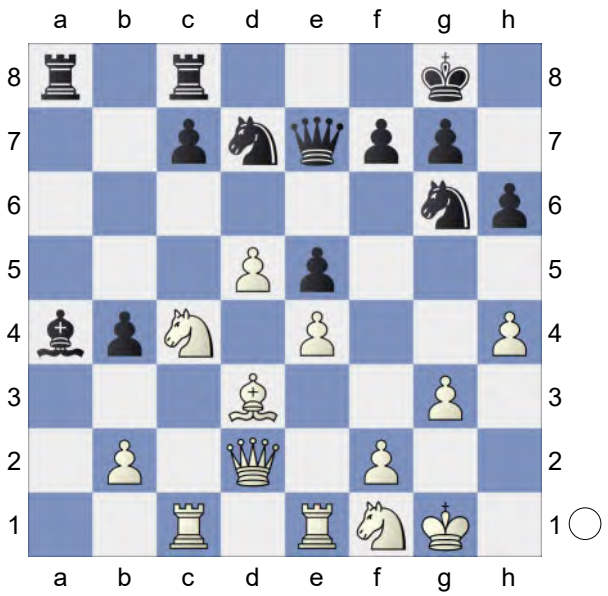


26.Qxe3 Qe7! 27.h4 Nf6 28.g3 Ng4 29.Qd2 Nf6 30.Nh2 Bh3

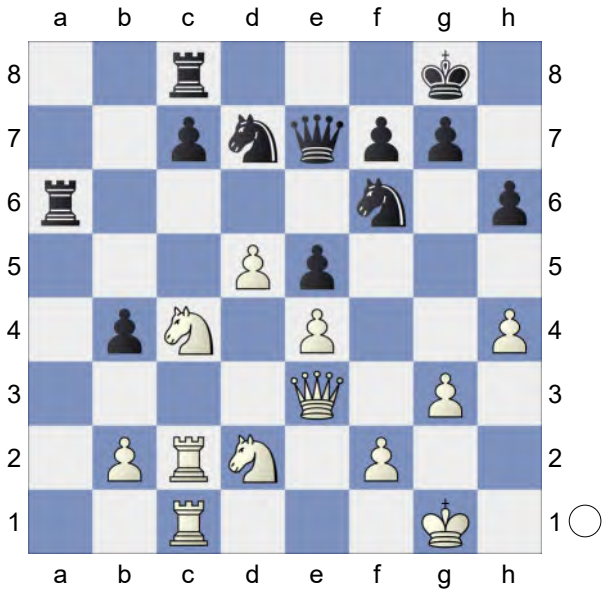


31.Rc2 Bd7 32.Rcc1 0.01/17
[32.Rec1± 0.98/18]
32...Bh3!= 33.Rc2 -0.01/17
[33.b3!± 0.69/17]
33...Bd7! 34.Nf1 Ba4 35.Rcc1 Nd7 1.30/18
[⌓35...Qf8 0.96/18]

(Diagram)

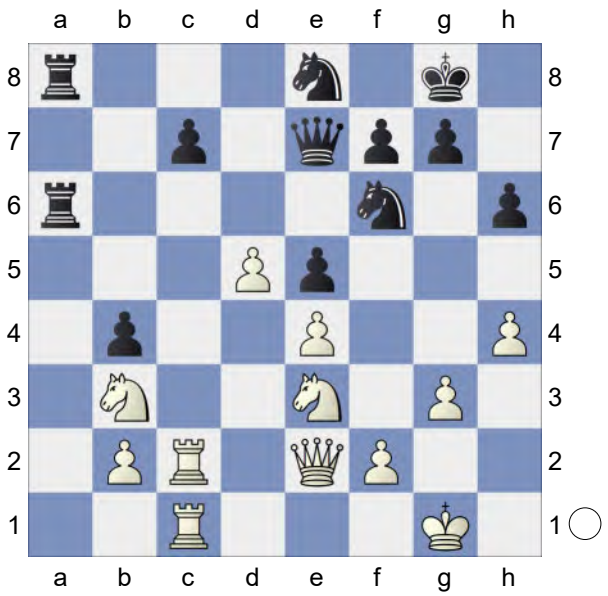


36.Bc2 0.97/18
[Better is 36.h5 1.30/18 Threatens to win with d6. Ngf8 37.Nfe3]
36...Bxc2 37.Rxc2 Nf6 38.Qe3 Nf8 39.Rec1 N8d7 Against Nb6 **40.Nfd2 Ra6**

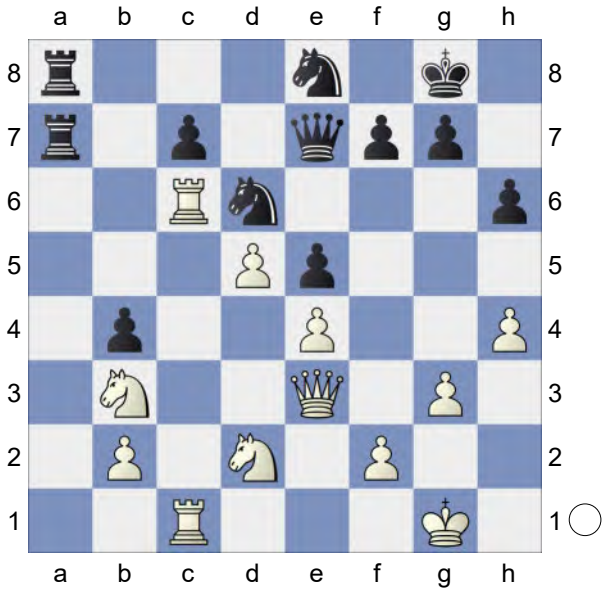


41.Qe2 Rca8 42.Ne3 Ne8 43.Qb5 Rb6 44.Qe2 -0.01/15
[44.Qd3± 1.06/19]
44...Rba6! 45.Nb3 Ndf6

(Diagram)



46.Qe1 0.76/18
[⌓46.Kg2 1.19/18]
46...R6a7 1.15/18
[46...Nxe4? 47.Nf5 Qf8 48.Qxe4+-]
[⌓46...Rb6 0.76/18]
47.Nc4 0.72/18
[⌓47.Nc5 1.15/18]
47...Nd6 48.Ncd2 Rb8 49.Qe3 Rba8 50.Rc6 Nfe8

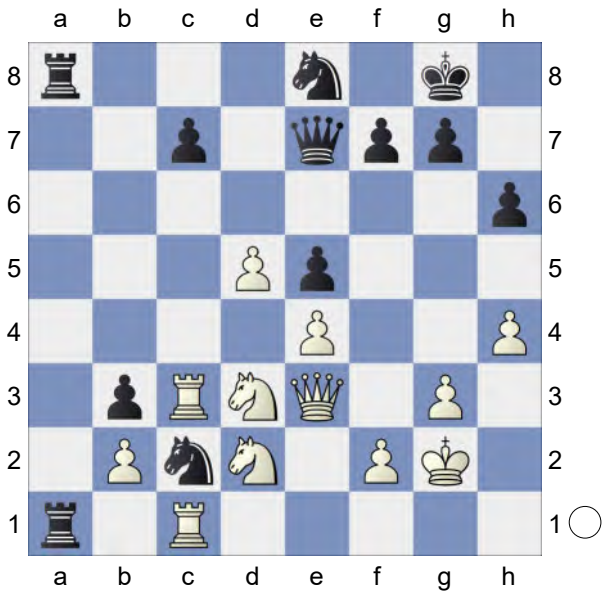


51.Nc5 Nb5 52.Nd3 0.55/18
&Bianco is much more active.
[52.Nf3± 0.91/19]
52...Nd4± 53.R6c5 Ra1 1.01/21

[53...f6± 0.63/19]

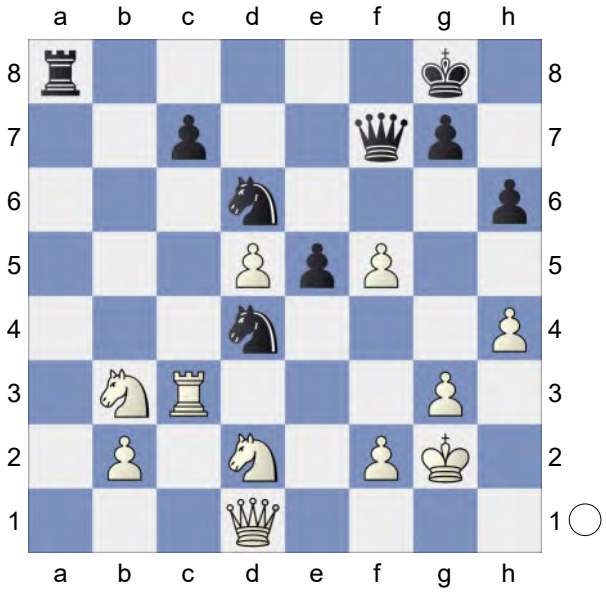
54.Kg2± b3 55.R5c3 Nc2 1.25/20

[Black should try 55...Rxc1 0.81/19 56.Nxc1 Nd6]



56.Qe2 Nd4 57.Qd1 Rxc1 58.Nxc1 Nd6 59.Ncxb3 f5 60.exf5 Qf7 1.34/18

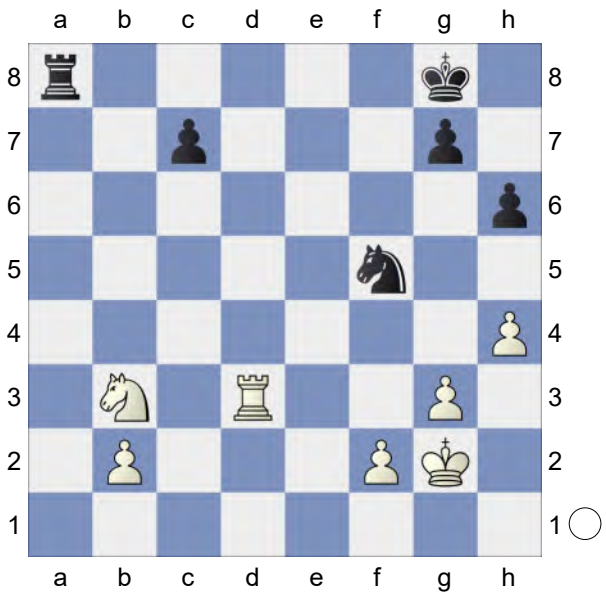
[⌓60...N6xf5 0.89/18 61.Nxd4 exd4]



61.Nxd4 exd4 62.Rf3 Qxd5 63.Qb3 Qxb3 64.Nxb3 Endgame KRN-KRN

64...d3 65.Rxd3 Nxf5

(Diagram)

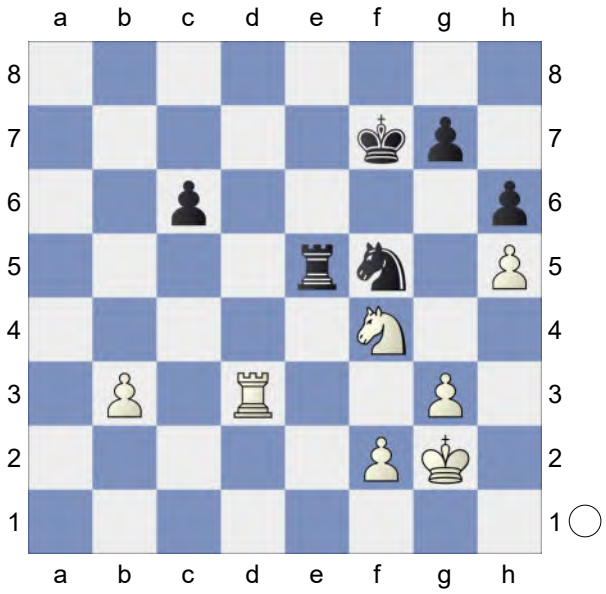


66.Nc5 Rb8 67.b3 Rb5 68.Ne6 c6 69.h5 Black must now prevent g4.

69...Re5 2.28/24

[69...Rb7 1.87/23 is a better defense. 70.Nd8 Rb6]

70.Nf4+- Kf7



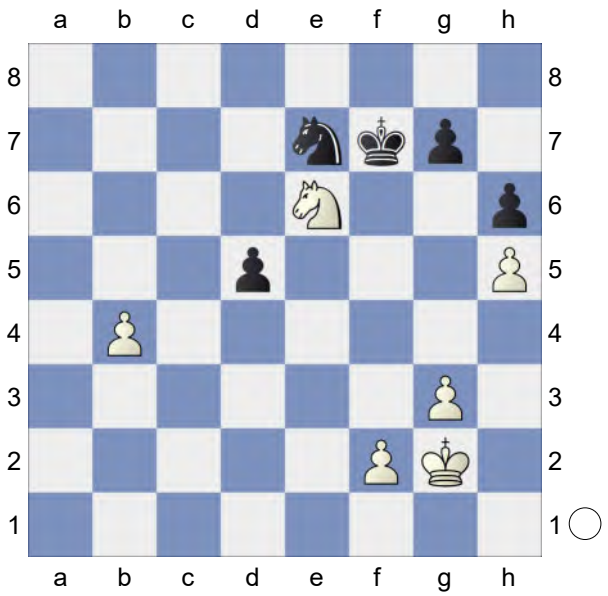
71.Ng6 Rd5 72.Rxd5 cxd5 KN-KN

73.Nf4 Ne7 4.06/26

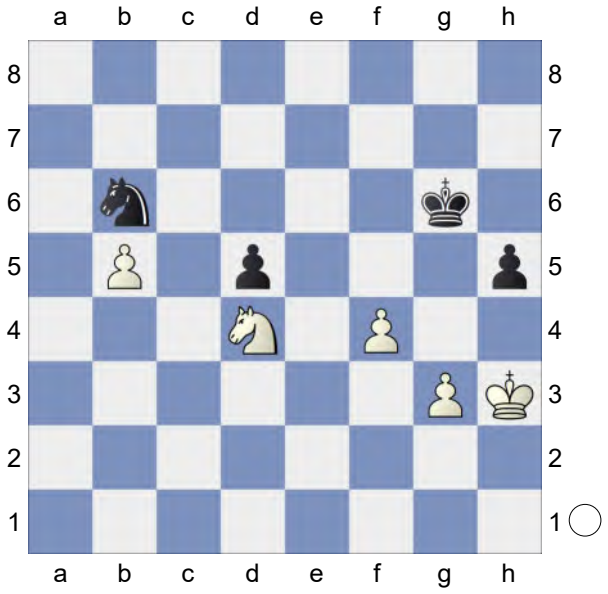
[73...d4 2.82/25 was necessary. 74.Kf3 d3 75.Nxd3 Nd4+ 76.Ke4 Nxb3]

74.b4 Ke8 75.Ne6 Kf7

(Diagram)

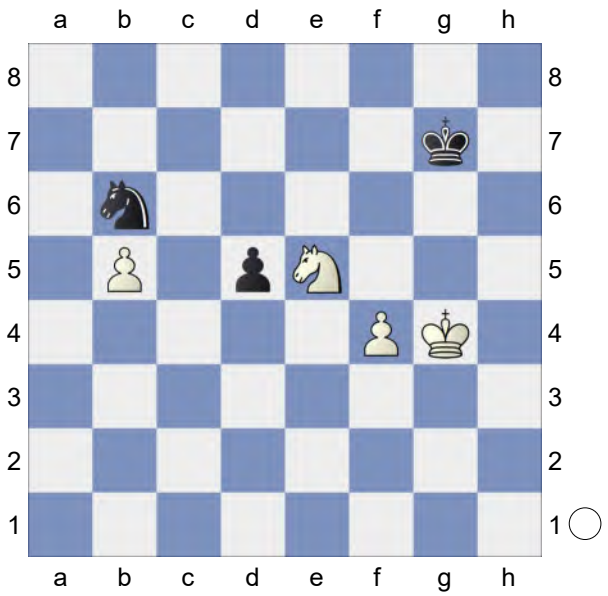


76.Nd4 g6 77.hxg6+ Kxg6 78.b5 Strongly threatening b6. **78...Nc8 79.f4 h5 80.Kh3 Nb6**

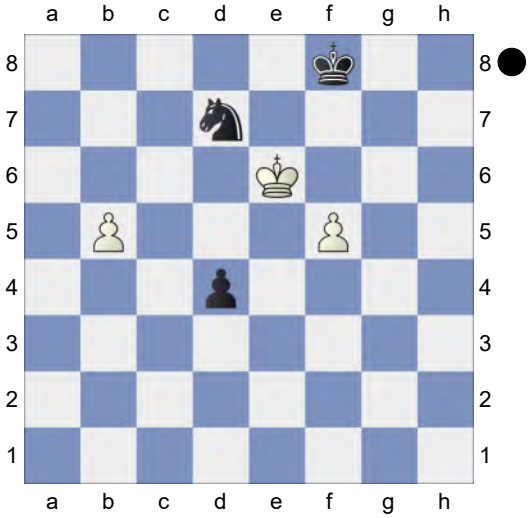


81.Kh4 Nc4 82.Nc6 Kh6 7.98/30
[⌓82...Nb6 4.37/25 83.Nb4 Kh6]
83.g4 hxg4 84.Kxg4 Kg7 7.65/27
[⌓84...d4 4.78/28 85.Ne5 Nd6]
85.Ne5 Nb6

(Diagram)



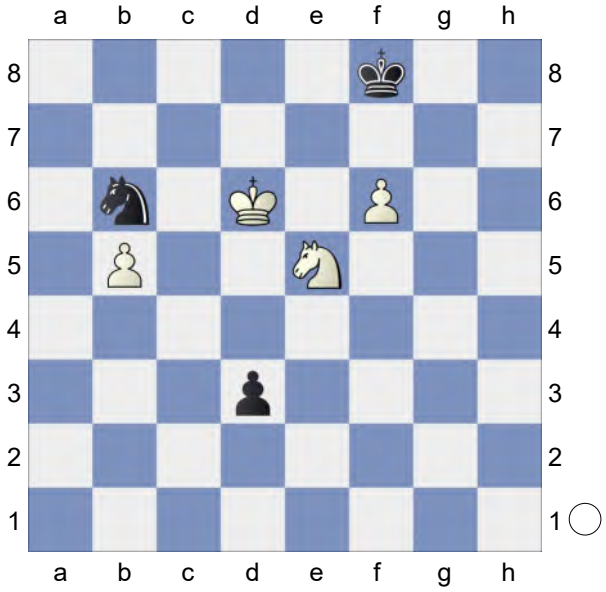
86.Kf5 And now Ke6 would win. **86...Kf8**
87.Ke6 White threatens Nd7+ and mate.
87...d4 88.f5 #18/23
[88.Nd7+ Nxd7 89.Kd5 d3 90.Kd6 Ke8 91.Kd5 d2 92.Kd4 d1Q+ 93.Kc3 Ke7 94.f5 Nc5 95.f6+ Kd6 96.f7 Qd3+ 97.Kb2 Qd2+ 98.Kb1 Ke7 99.f8R Kxf8 100.b6 Nd3 101.b7 Qb2#]
[88.Kd6+- 13.00/24 d3 89.Nxd3]
88...Na8 89.Kd6 Intending f6 and mate.
89...Nb6 90.f6 White wants to mate with Ke6.
[But not 90.Nd7+? Nxd7 91.Ke6



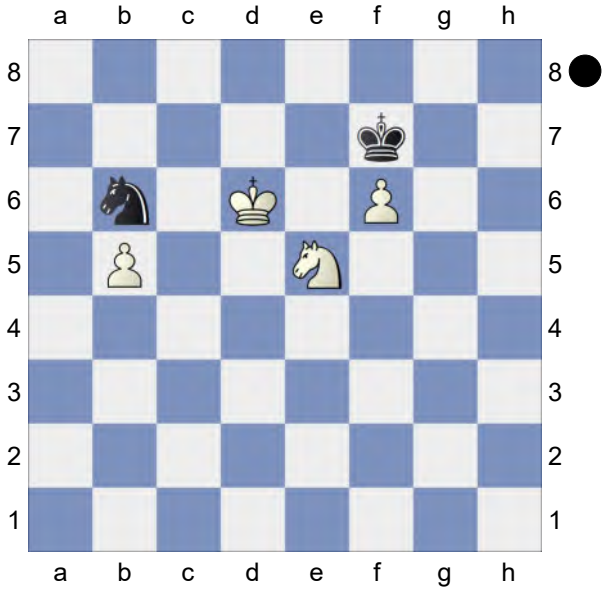
d3! 92.Kxd7 d2 93.Kd6 d1Q+

94.Kc6 Qf3+ 95.Kd6 Qxf5 96.Kc6 Ke7 97.b6 Qe4+ 98.Kc5 Kd7 99.b7 Kc7 100.b8R Kxb8 101.Kd6 Kb7 102.Kc5 Qd3 103.Kb4 Kc6 104.Ka4 Kc5 105.Ka5 Qb5#]

90...d3



91.Nxd3 Kf7 92.Ne5+

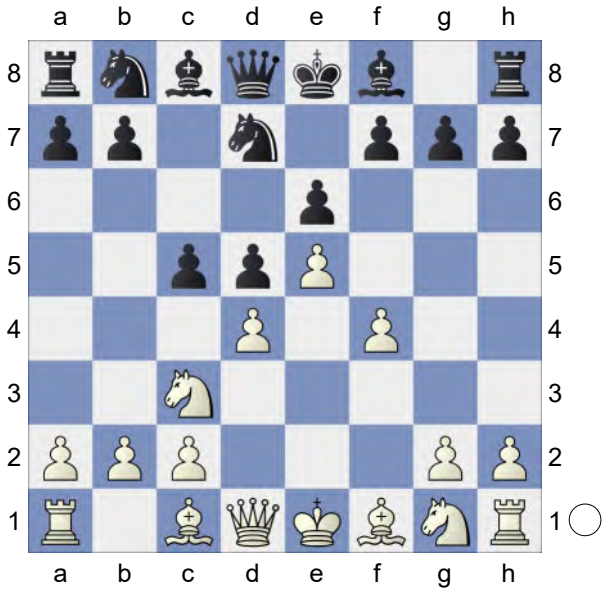


Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)

1-0

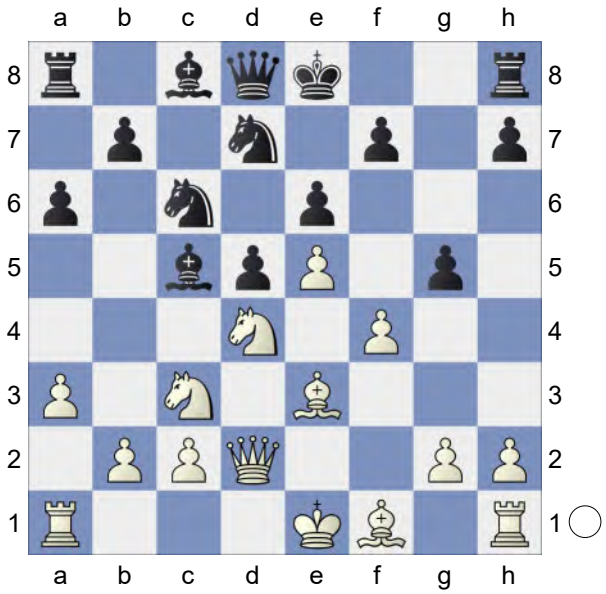
37 **C11**
□ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
■ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
Tata Steel Challengers (6.2) 24.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C11: French: Classical System: 4 e5 and 4 Bg5 dxe4 **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5**



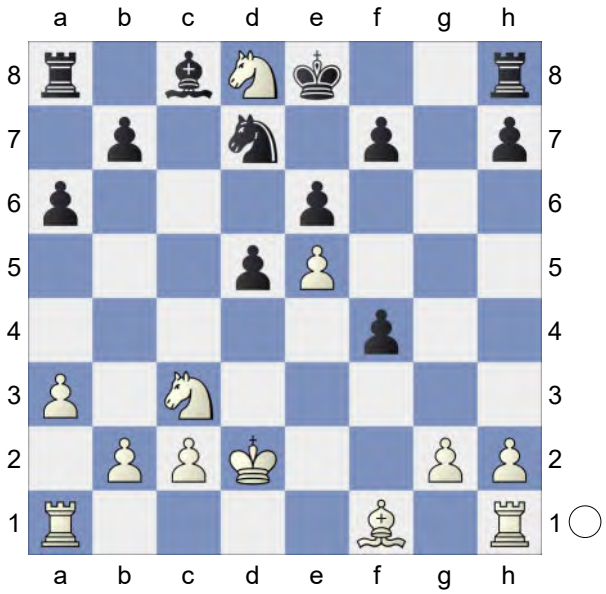
6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.a3 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bc5 10.Qd2 g5 0.60/17
[10...0-0= 0.06/18]

(Diagram)

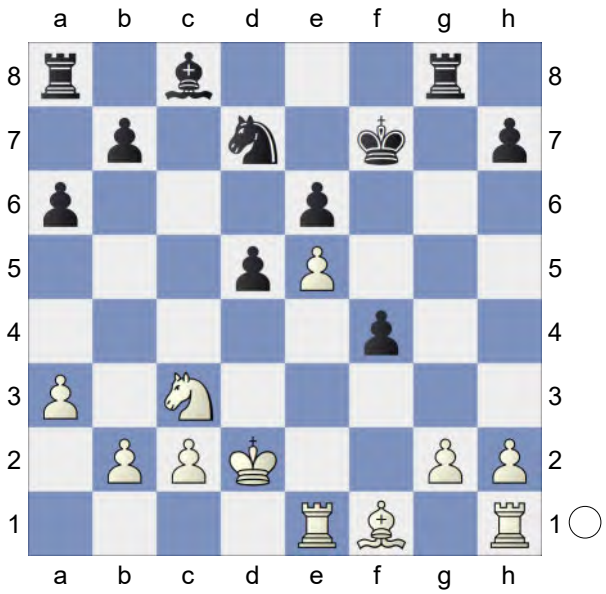


11.Nxc6±
[11.f5 seems wilder. Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qb6 14.Qxb6 Nxb6 15.0-0-0]
11...Bxe3 White is slightly better.
12.Nxd8 0.37/19 Pair of Knights!
[12.Qxe3± 0.74/20 bxc6 13.fxg5]
12...Bxd2+ 13.Kxd2 gxf4N
[13...Kxd8 14.g3 b5 15.Bd3 Bb7 16.Ne2 Ke7 17.Nd4 Rag8 18.Rhg1 Rg7 19.Nf3 h6 20.f5 exf5 21.Nd4 Rgg8 22.Rae1 Kd8 23.e6 fxe6 24.Nxe6+ Kc8 25.Bxf5 Kb8 26.Rgf1 Re8 27.Ng7 Rxe1 28.Rxe1 Muzychuk,A (2525)-Agmanov,Z (2458) Almaty KAZ 2024 1-0 (60)]

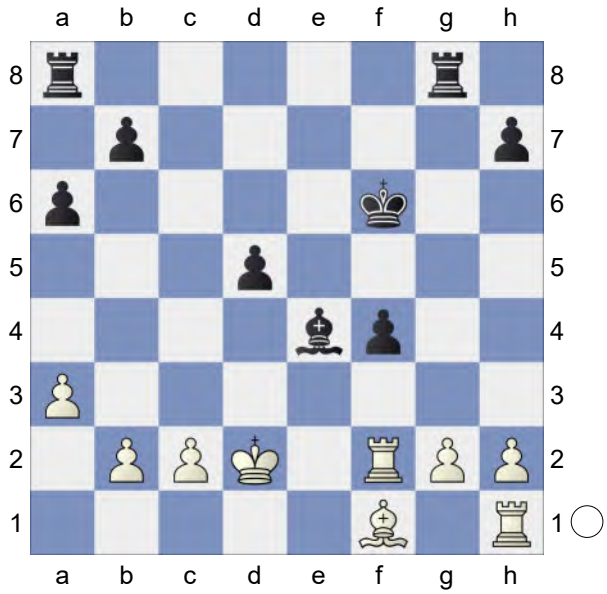
(Diagram)



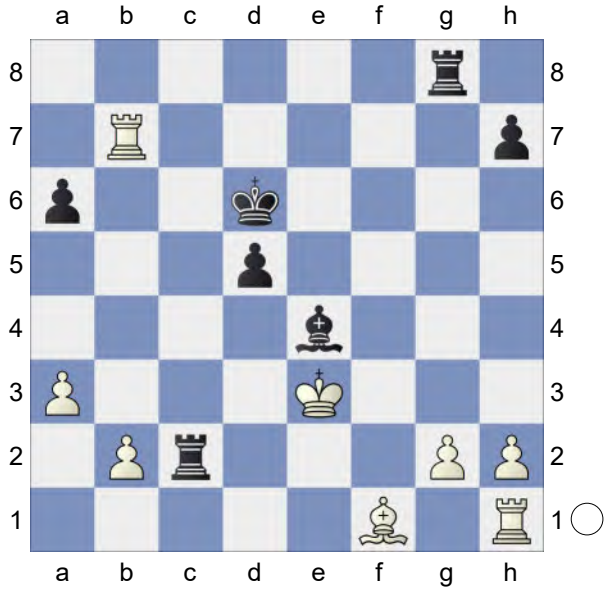
14.Nxf7 Kxf7 15.Re1 Rg8 1.09/20
[15...Ke7!± 0.34/18]



Against g3 **16.Nxd5!** 0.66/19 **exd5**
17.e6+ Kf6 1.16/19
[17...Ke8± 0.59/20 18.exd7+ Kxd7]
18.exd7± &Bianco is more active.
18...Bxd7 19.Re2 -0.06/21
[19.g3!± 0.53/19]
19...Bf5↑ ...Rac8 is the strong threat.
Black is more active. **20.Rf2 Be4** 0.35/22
[20...Ke5= 0.01/19]

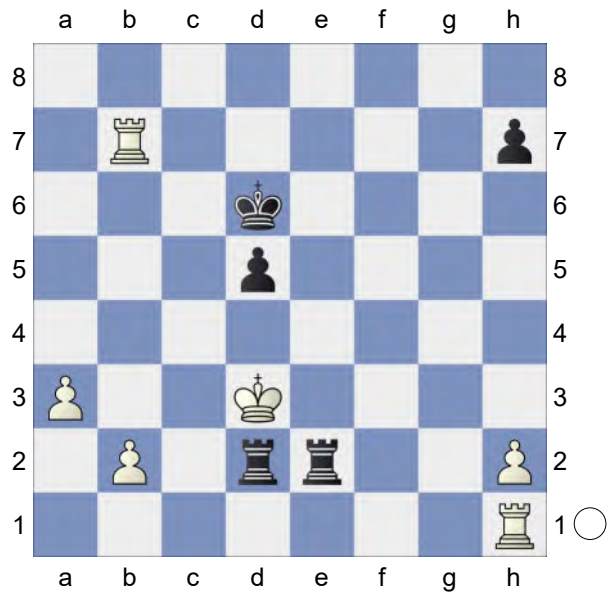


21.Rxf4+± Ke5 22.Rf7 -0.18/21
[⌓22.Rf2 0.25/21]
22...Raf8= 23.Re7+ Kd6 24.Rxb7 Rf2+ 25.Ke3 Rxc2

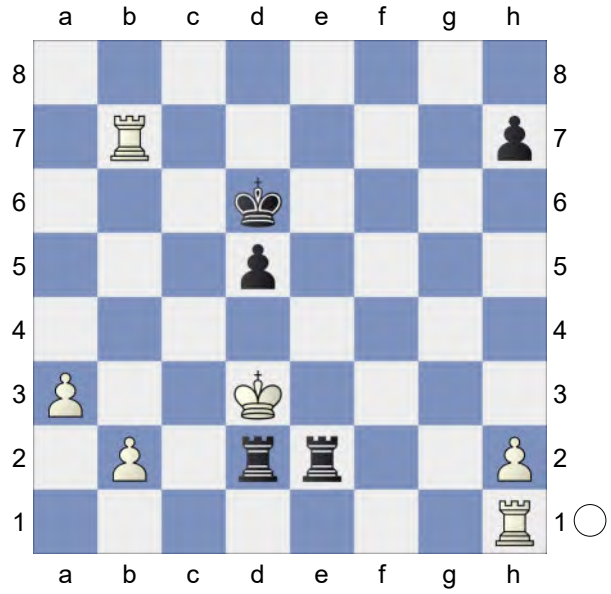


Hoping for ...Re8. **26.Bxa6 Rgxg2**
27.Bd3 Bxd3
[27...Kc6 feels hotter. 28.Rb8 Bxd3 29.Kxd3 Rgd2+]
28.Kxd3 Rgd2+ 29.Ke3 Re2+
The position is equal. **30.Kd3 Rcd2+**

(Diagram)



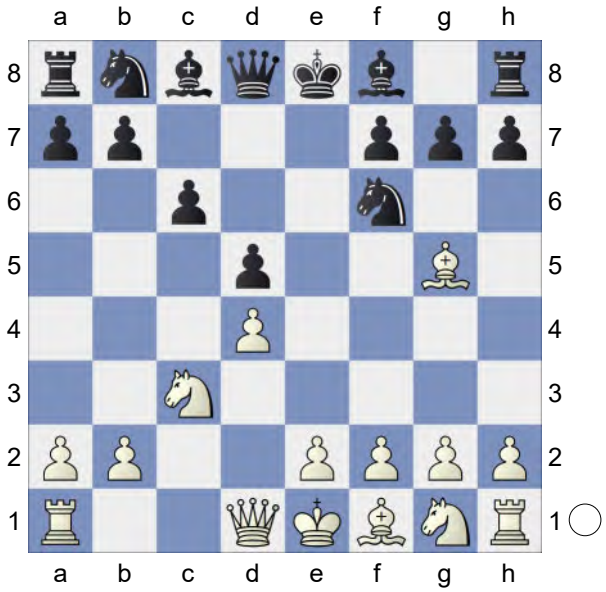
31.Kc3 Rc2+ 32.Kd3 Rcd2+



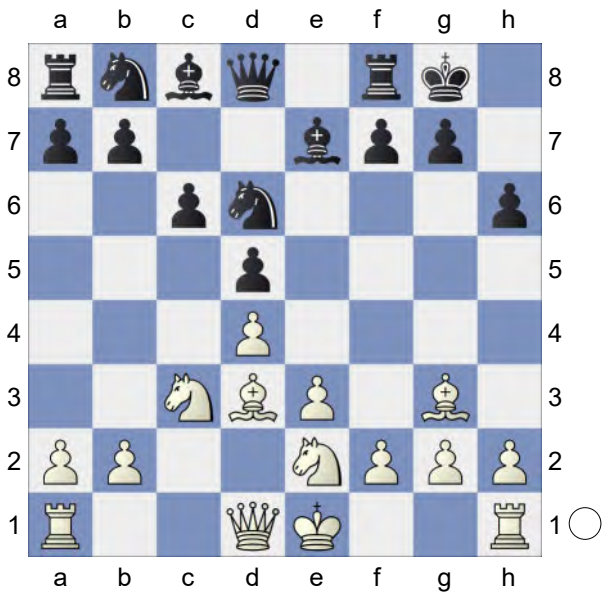
Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)
½-½

38 **D35**
□ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
■ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
Tata Steel Challengers (6.3) 24.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation **1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6**



6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 Be7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Nge2 Ne8 10.Bg3 Nd6



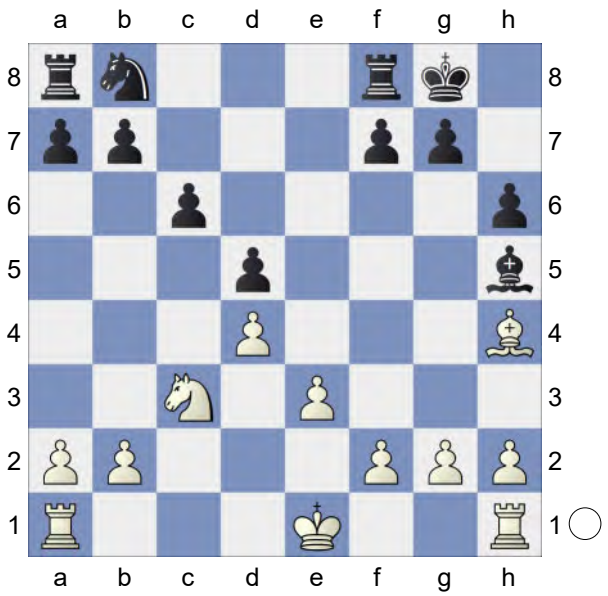
11.Bf4N The position is equal.

[11.0-0 Re8 12.Rc1 a5 13.Bf4 Bf8 14.Ng3 Na6 15.b3 Nc7 16.Be5 Ncb5 17.Nxb5 Nxb5 18.Bxb5 cxb5 Good Positions-Introduction Parkhov, Y Grandmaster Training: Decision-Making 2023]

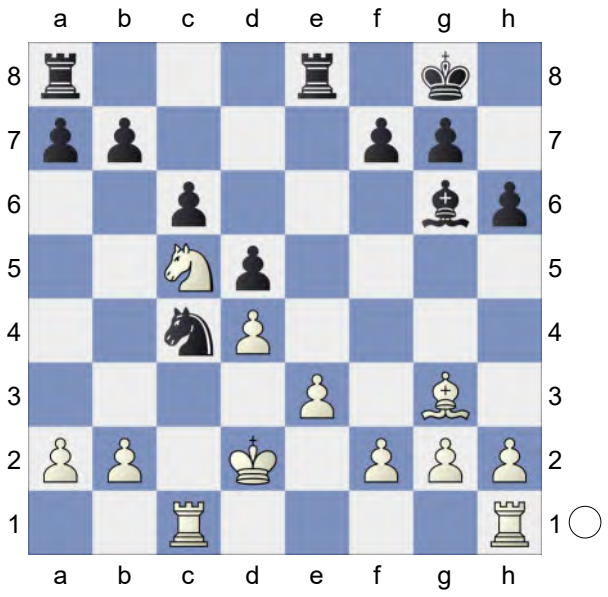
[11.Qc2 Re8 12.0-0 Bf8 13.Rae1 *(13.h3 a5 14.Kh1 Na6 15.a3 Nc7 16.Ng1 b5 17.Nf3 Nc4 18.a4 b4 19.Ne2 Ba6 20.Rac1 Ne6 21.Nf4 Nxf4 22.Bxf4 Bb7 23.b3 Nd6 24.Ne5 Rc8 25.Qe2 Ne4 26.Rc2 c5 27.dxc5 Rxc5* Eljanov,P (2672)-Urazayev,A (2466) Almaty KAZ 2024 1-0 (58) *)* 13...a5 14.a3 Na6 15.Nf4 *(15.Bf4 b5 16.Ng3 Nc4 17.e4 Be6 18.exd5 Bxd5 19.Rxe8 Qxe8 20.Nxd5 cxd5 21.Nf5 Qe6 22.h3 a4 23.Bc1 Re8 24.Qd1 Nb8 25.b3 axb3 26.Qxb3 Qc6 27.Bb1* Situru,N-Bandza,A Italy CBM 138 [John Watson]*)* 15...Bd7 16.f3 b5 17.Qf2 *(17.e4 b4 18.Nb1 Qb6 19.Bf2 Nb5 20.exd5 Nxd4 21.Qd1 c5* 5) Exchange Variation 4.cxd5-Exchange Variation 7.Bh4 - 9.*)* 17...b4 18.axb4 Nxb4 19.Bb1 a4 20.e4 a3 21.bxa3 Rxa3 22.Rc1 Nc4 23.Rfe1 Rb3 24.exd5 Rb2 25.Rxe8 Bxe8 Lu,S (2605)-Li,D (2539) Chiva 2022 (31)]

11...Bf5 12.Bxd6 Bxd3 13.Bxe7 Bxe2 14.Bxd8 Bxd1 15.Bh4 Bh5

(Diagram)

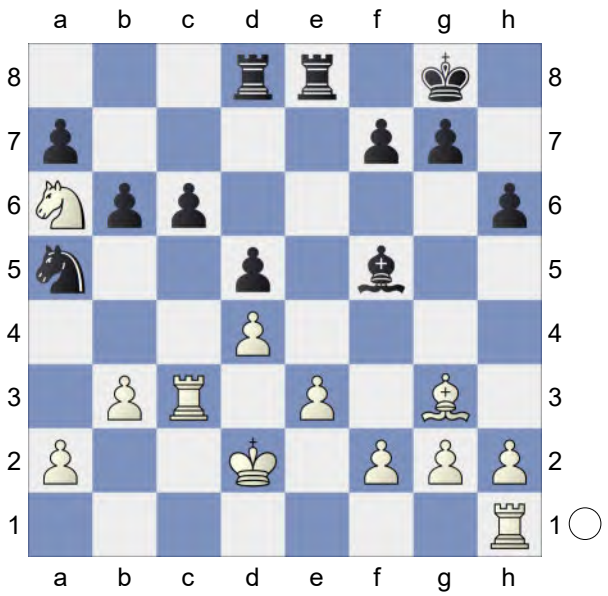


16.Kd2 Nd7 17.Na4 Rfe8 18.Bg3 Bg6 19.Rac1 Nb6 0.50/22
[19...a5= 0.18/19]
20.Nc5± Nc4+

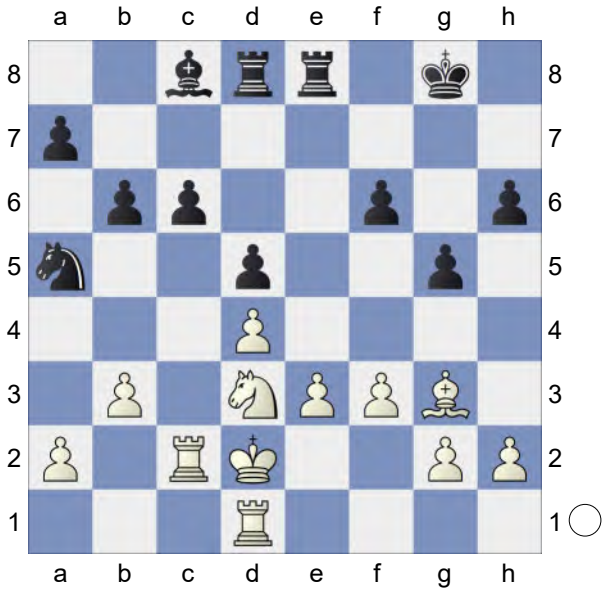


21.Kc3! b6 22.Na6 Hoping for Nc7.
22...Rac8 23.b3 Na5 24.Kd2 Bf5 25.Rc3 Rcd8

(Diagram)



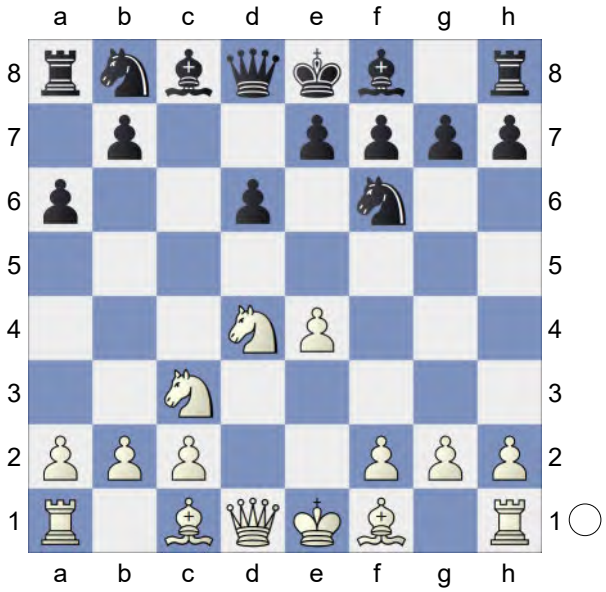
26.Rd1 Bc8 27.Nb4 Bb7 28.f3 f6
White is slightly better. **29.Nd3 g5 30.Rc2 Bc8**



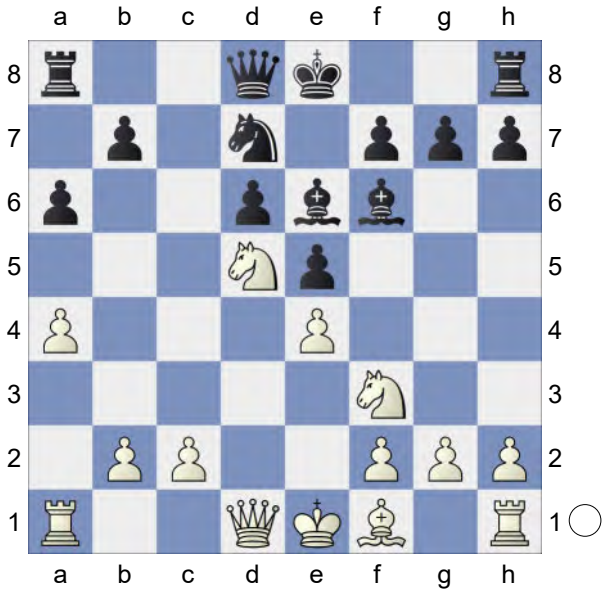
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

39 **B90**
□ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
■ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
Tata Steel Challengers (6.4) 24.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

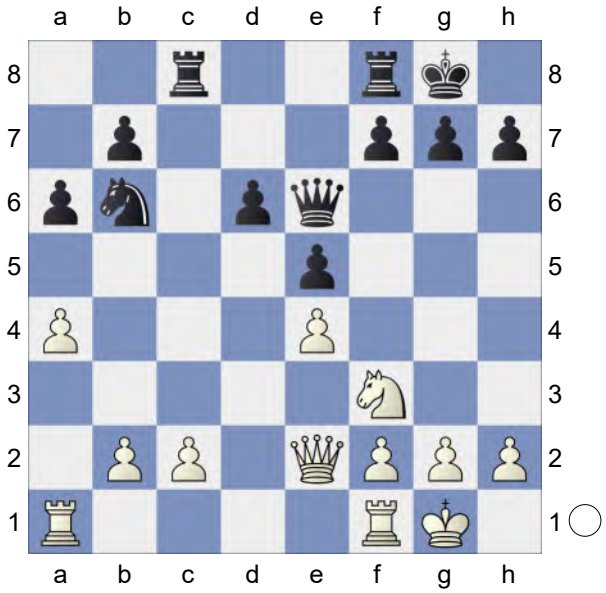
B90: Sicilian Najdorf: Unusual White 6th moves, 6 Be3 Ng4 and 6 Be3 e5 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6**



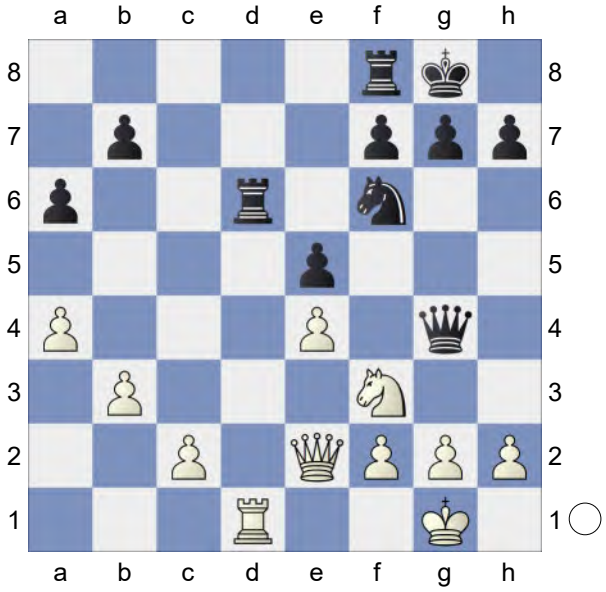
6.a4 e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bg5 Be6 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Nd5 Inhibits Qb6. **10...Nd7**



White has an edge. **11.Bc4 Rc8 12.Qe2 Nb6 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.0-0N 0-0**

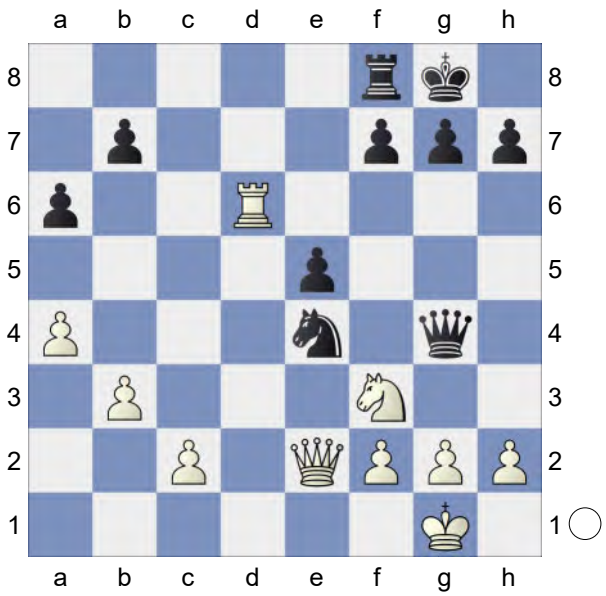


16.Rfd1 Rc6 17.b3 Nd7 18.Rd2 Nf6 19.Rad1 Qg4 0.82/22
[19...Rd8!= 0.22/18 remains equal.]
20.Rxd6± Rxd6

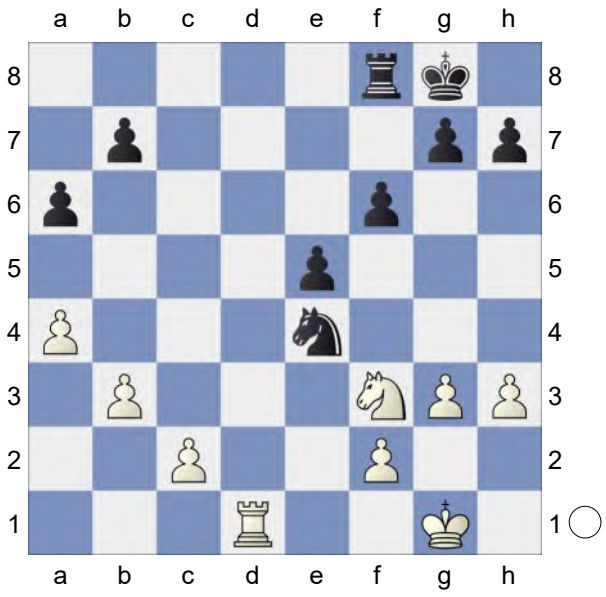


21.Rxd6 Nxe4

(Diagram)

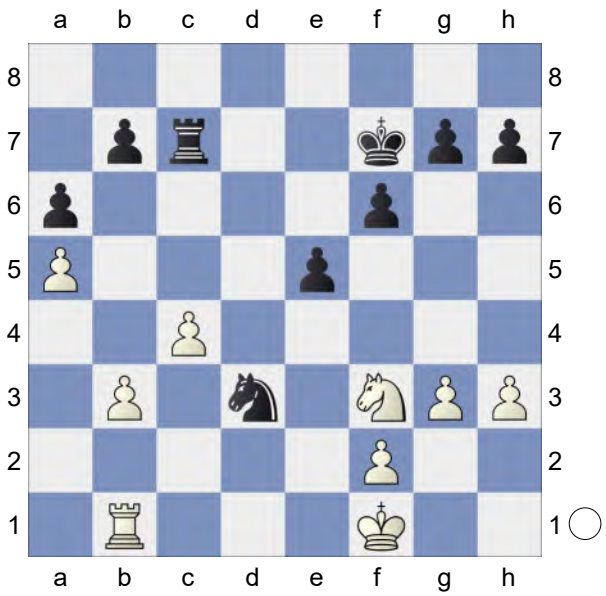


22.h3! Qf4 23.g3 0.25/24 **Qc1+!= 24.Qd1! Qxd1+ 25.Rxd1**
Endgame White wants to play Rd7. KRN-KRN **25...f6**

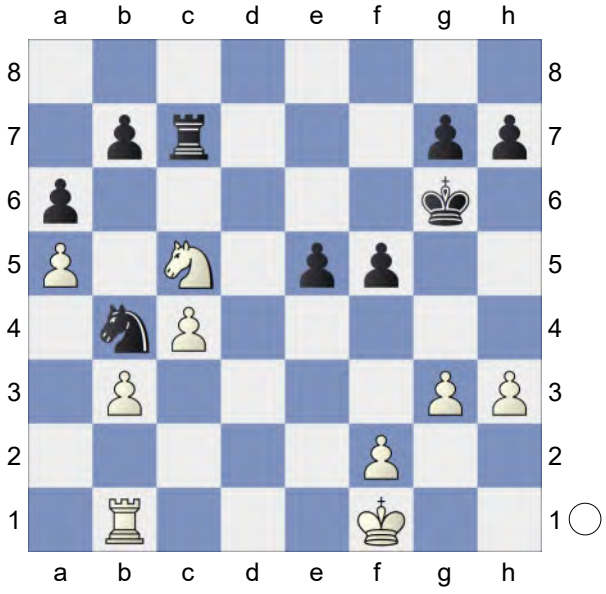


26.a5 Rc8 27.c4 Rc7 28.Kf1 Kf7 29.Rc1 Nc5 30.Rb1 Nd3

(Diagram)

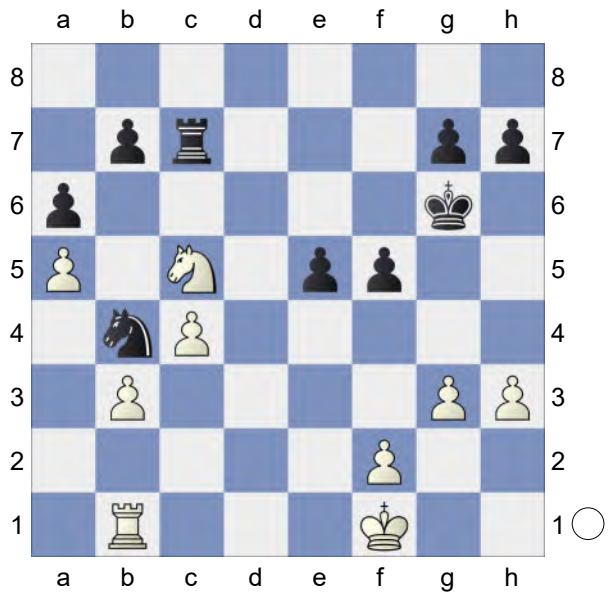


31.Nd2 Nb4 32.Ne4 f5 33.Ng5+ Kg6 -0.06/23
[33...Ke7∓ -0.52/25]
34.Ne6 The position is equal. **34...Re7 35.Nc5 Rc7**



36.Ne6 Re7 37.Nc5 Rc7

(Diagram)

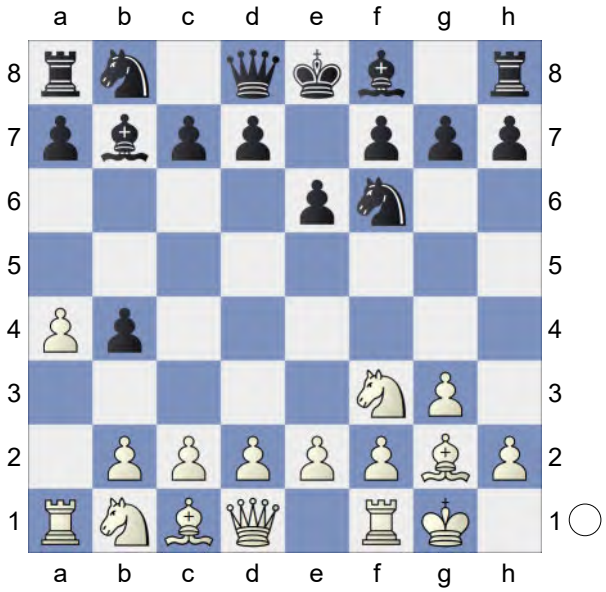


Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)

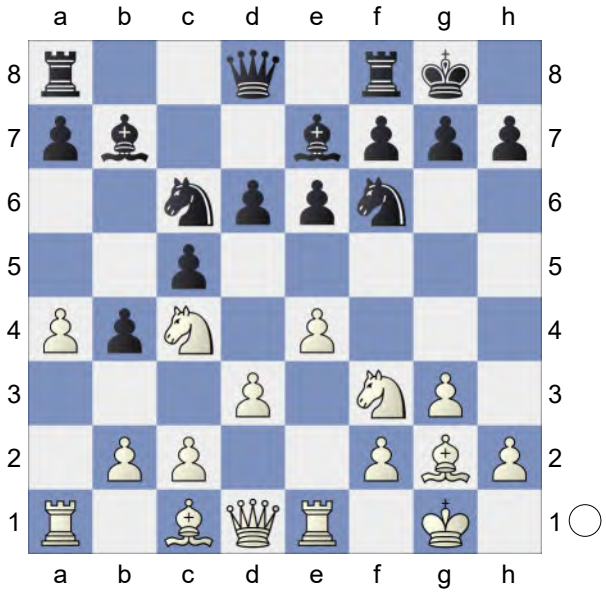
½-½

40 **A05**
□ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
■ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
Tata Steel Challengers (6.5) 24.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

A05: Réti Opening: 1 Nf3 Nf6 Korchnoi, V: 'Inf 47/1' **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b5 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.a4 b4 5.0-0 e6**

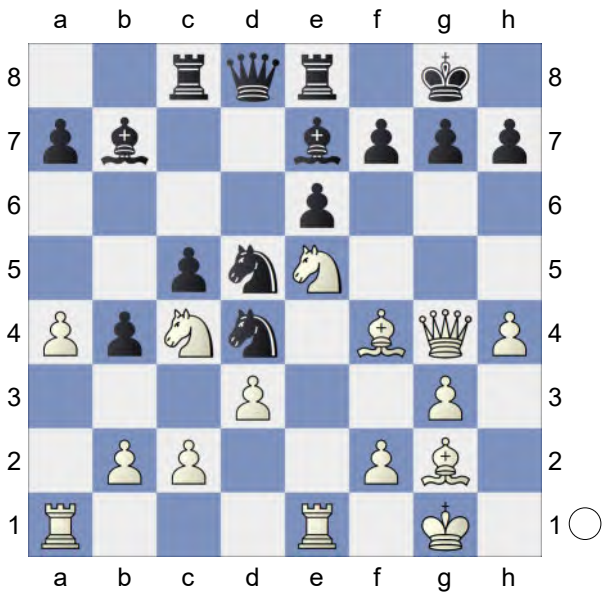


6.d3 c5 7.e4 d6 8.Nbd2 Be7
[8...Nbd7 9.Nc4 Be7 10.Bf4 e5 11.Bg5 0-0 12.Nh4 Ne8 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Nf5 Qe6 15.Bh3 Bc8 16.Kg2 Nb6 17.Nce3 a5 18.f4 Kh8 19.Qh5 d5 20.Bg4 dxe4 21.dxe4 Bb7 22.Rad1 Bxe4+ 23.Kg1 Malikentzos,S (2443)-Giannoulakis,L (2334) Nikaia 2023 1-0 (36)]
9.Nc4 0-0 10.Re1 Nc6
[10...Nbd7 11.Bf4 d5 12.Nd6 Bc6 13.Ng5 Nb6 14.Ndxf7 Rxf7 15.Bh3 Bd7 16.a5 e5 17.axb6 Bxh3 18.b7 Rb8 19.Bxe5 Rxb7 20.Nxh3 Qd7 21.Nf4 dxe4 22.dxe4 Ng4 23.Qd5 Nxe5 24.Qxe5 Bd6 25.Qd5 Carlsen,M (2933)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2886) Stavanger 2015 [Albert Silver] 0-1 (74)]

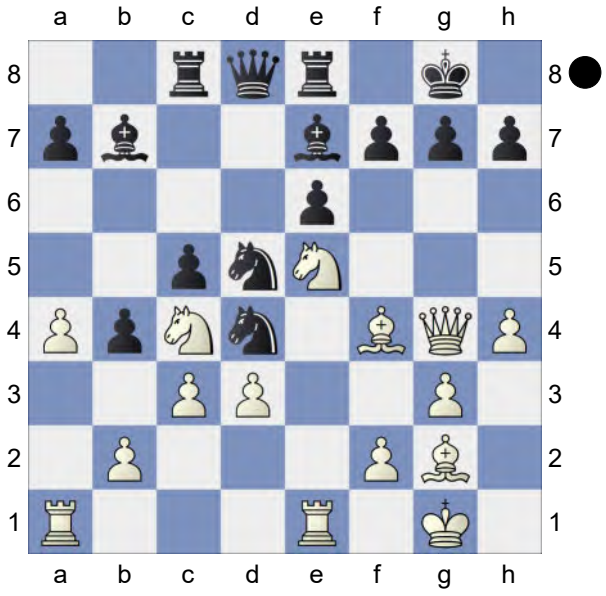


11.Bf4N
[11.a5 Rb8 12.a6 Ba8 13.Bf4 Rc8 14.e5 *(14.c3 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Bd2 Bf6 17.Qc2 Rc7 18.h4 Rd7 19.Ng5 h6 20.Ne4 Be7 21.f4 Nb6 22.Nxb6 axb6 23.Nf2 Na5 24.Bxa8 Qxa8 25.Re4 Qxa6 26.cxb4 cxb4 27.Bxb4 Qb5 28.Bxe7 Rxe7* Speelman,J (2645)-Kortschnoj,V (2595) Hastings 1988 CI1-130 [Kortschnoj,Viktor] 0-1 (71) *29.Rc1 Qd5 30.Re5 Qf3 31.Kh2 Nb3 32.Qxb3 Qxf2+ 33.Kh3 Rd7 34.Rce1 Rfd8 35.R5e2 Qc5 36.Re5 Qc6 37.R1e3 Rd4 38.h5 Qc1 39.Re1 Qd2 40.R1e2 Qxd3 41.Qxd3 Rxd3 42.f5 exf5 43.Rxf5 R8d5* Speelman,J (2645)-Kortschnoj,V (2595) CI1-130 [Kortschnoj,Viktor] 0-1 (71) *)* 14...dxe5 15.Nfxe5 A 05/08]
11...Rc8 12.h4 Re8 The position is equal. **13.e5 dxe5 14.Nfxe5 Nd5 15.Qg4** And now Nxf7! would win.
15...Nd4

(Diagram)

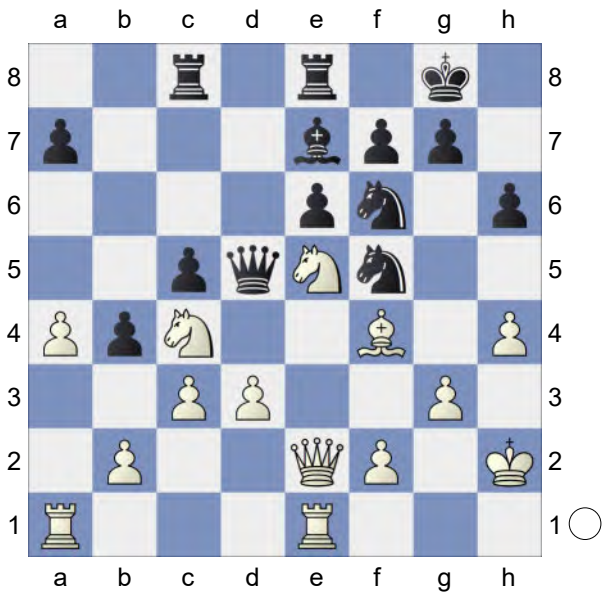


16.c3

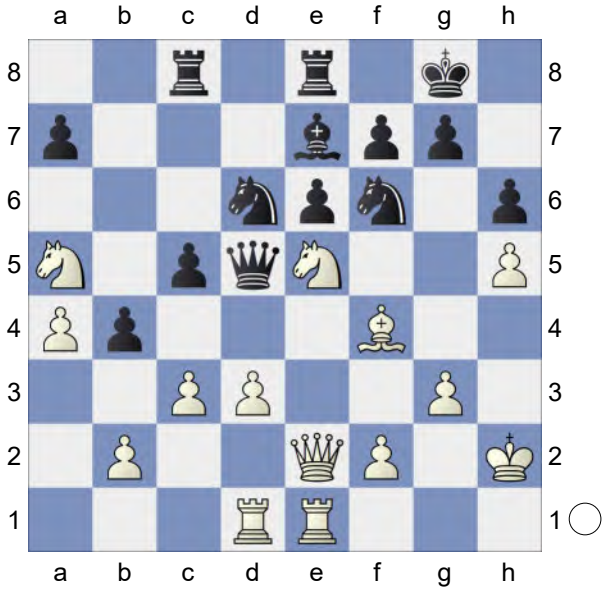


Nf6! 17.Qd1 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Qd5+ 19.Kh2 Nf5 20.Qe2 h6

(Diagram)

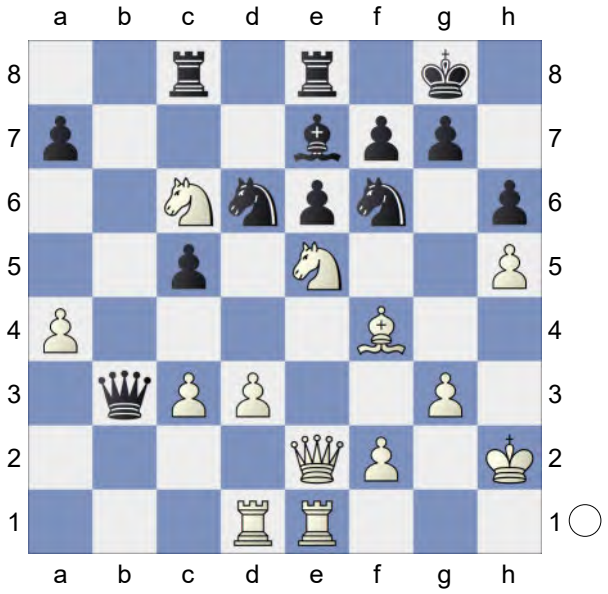


21.h5 Nd6 22.Rad1 Rcd8 0.31/20
[22...Qb7= -0.19/17]
23.Na5± Rc8 1.00/20
[23...Qa8= 0.13/21 keeps the balance.]

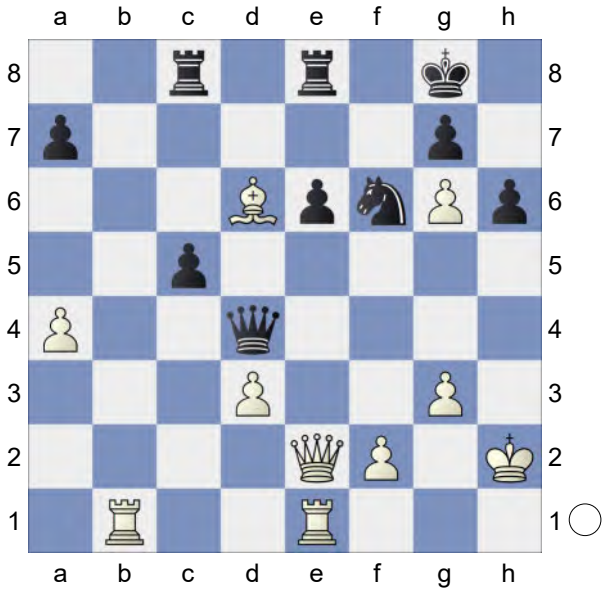


Against Nac6 **24.Nac6!±** Black must now prevent c4. **24...bxc3** 1.22/21
[24...Rxc6? 25.c4 Qxe5 26.Bxe5+-]
[Black should play 24...Nf5 0.88/22]
25.bxc3 c4 is the strong threat.
[25.Nxe7+?! Rxe7 26.bxc3 Qb7=]
25...Qb3

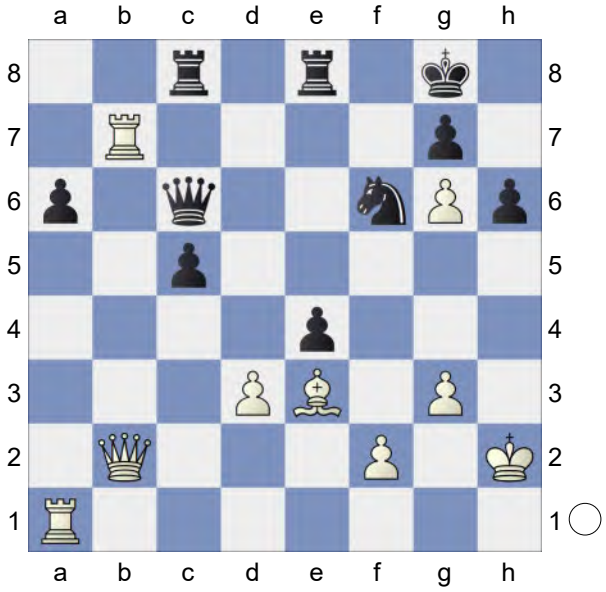
[25...Rxc6? 26.c4 Qxe5 27.Bxe5+-]



26.Rb1! Qxc3 27.Nxe7+ -0.24/21
[27.Rec1+- 1.89/21 Qa3 28.Nc4 Nxc4 29.Rxc4]
27...Rxe7= 28.Ng6! fxg6
[28...Rd7? 29.Bxd6 Re8 30.Be5 Qxd3 31.Bxf6 Qxe2 32.Rxe2+-]
29.Bxd6 Ree8 30.hxg6 Qd4

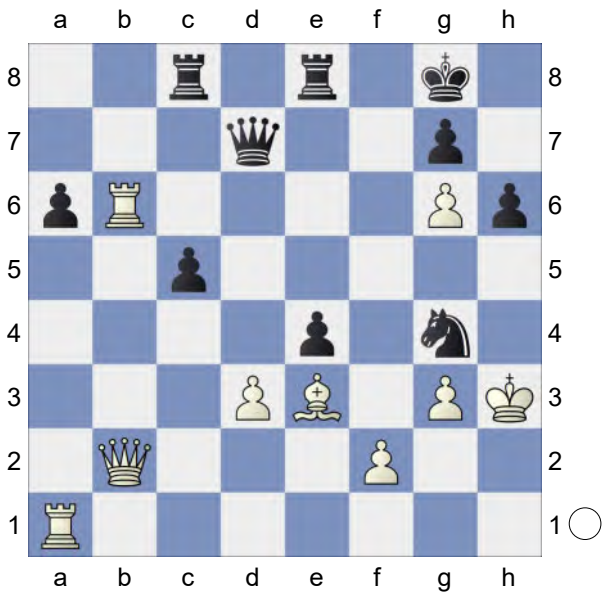


31.Bf4 e5 32.Be3 Qxa4 33.Rb7 -0.50/20
[33.Rbc1= -0.15/20]
33...e4 -0.01/20
[33...Qa6!∓ -0.50/20 34.Rf7 Qe6]
34.Qb2! aiming for Ra1. **34...Qc6**
35.Ra1
[Don't play 35.Rxa7 exd3 36.Bd2 c4∓]
35...a6

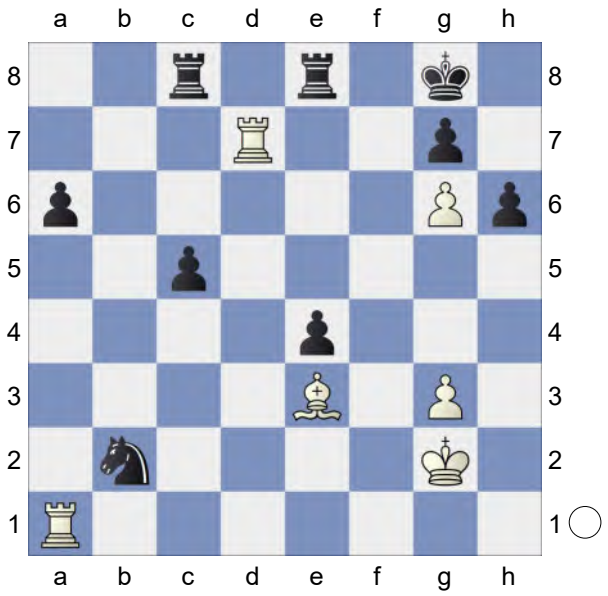


36.Rb6 -1.38/21
[36.dxe4= -0.28/21 remains equal. Rxe4 37.Ra7]
36...Ng4+ 0.01/24
[36...Qd5∓ -1.38/21 37.dxe4 *(37.Rxf6? gxf6 38.dxe4 Rxe4-+)* 37...Ng4+ 38.Kg1 Qxe4]
37.Kh3⇄ White has counterplay
37...Qd7

(Diagram)

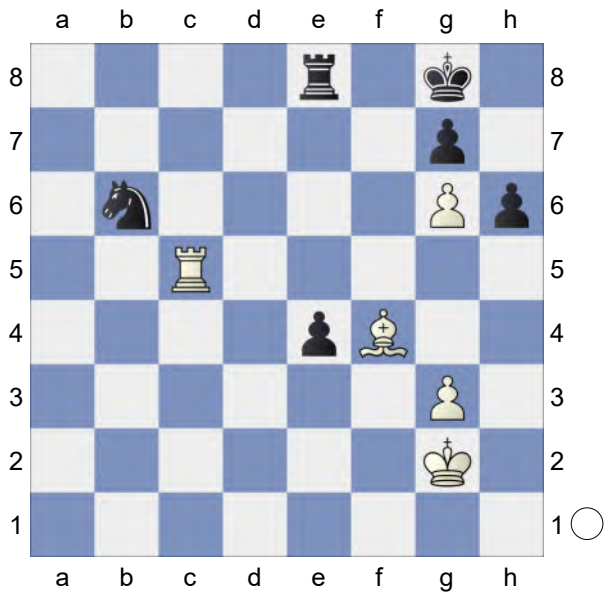


Really sharp! **38.Rb7! Nxf2+! 39.Kg2 Nxd3 40.Rxd7 Nxb2**

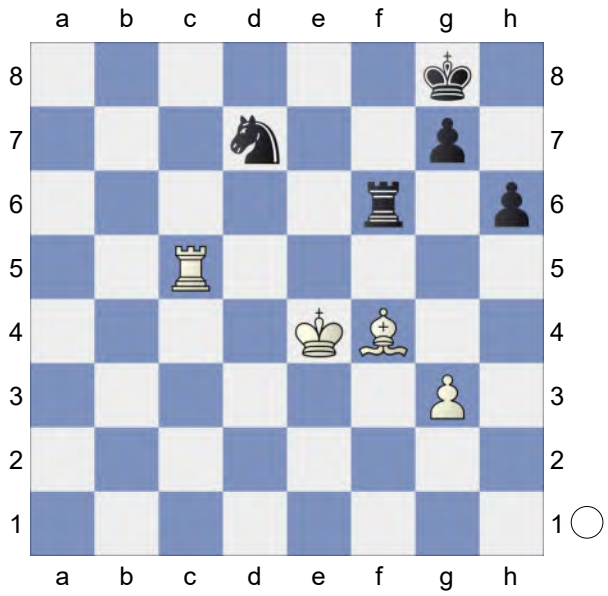


41.Rxa6 Intending Raa7 and mate. **41...Nc4 42.Bf4** White wants to mate with Raa7. **42...Ra8 43.Rxa8**
[43.Re7 feels hotter. Kf8 44.Rf7+ Kg8 45.Rc6]
43...Rxa8 Endgame KRB-KRN **44.Rc7 Re8 45.Rxc5 Nb6**

(Diagram)

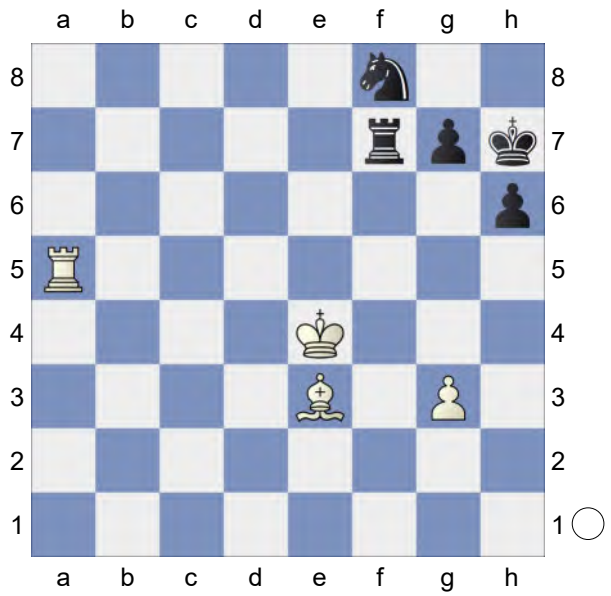


46.Kf2 Re6 47.Ke3 Rxg6 48.Kxe4 Re6+ 49.Kf5 Rf6+ 50.Ke4 Nd7

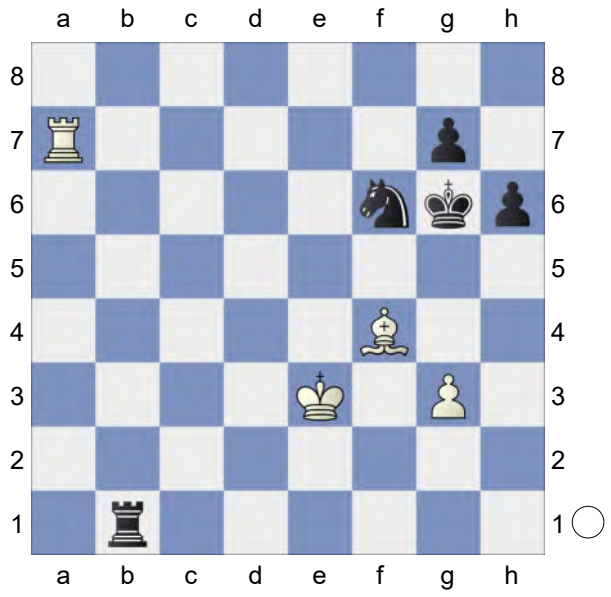


51.Ra5 Nf8 52.Be5 Rf7 53.Bd6 Ne6 54.Bf4 Kh7 55.Be3 Nf8 -0.33/16
[⌓55...Kg6 -0.65/23]

(Diagram)

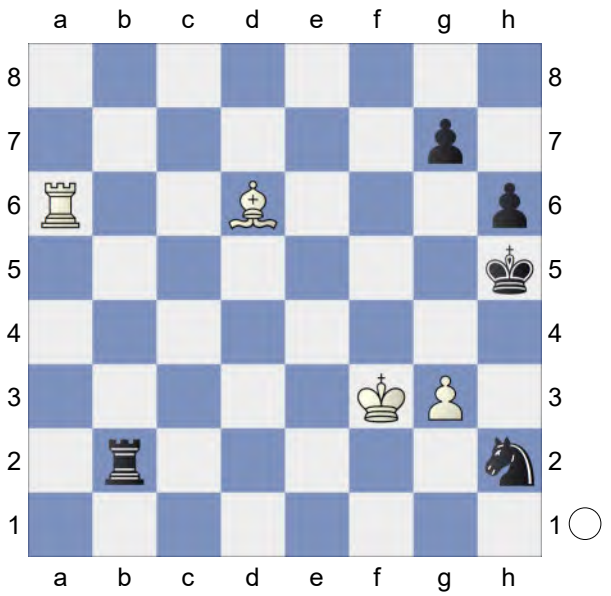


56.Rb5 -0.80/20
[56.Ra1∓ -0.33/16]
56...Rf1 57.Rb7 Kg6 58.Ra7 Nh7 59.Bf4 Nf6+ 60.Ke3 Rb1

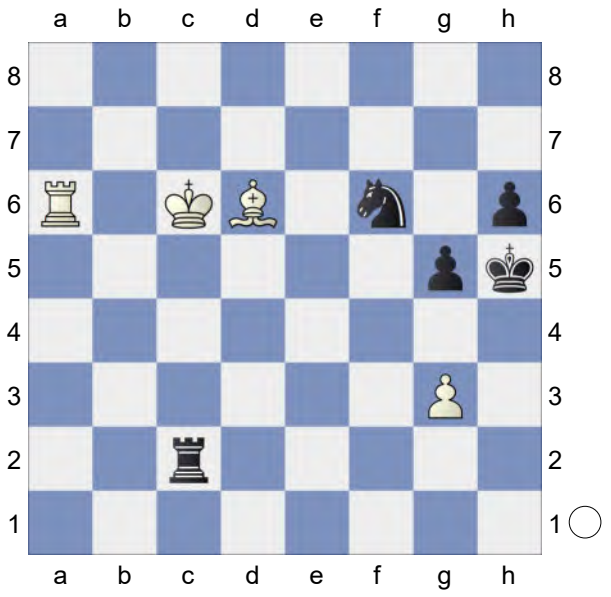


61.Kf3 Rb3+ 62.Kg2 Ng4 63.Ra6+ Kh5 64.Bd6 Rb2+ 65.Kf3 Nh2+

(Diagram)

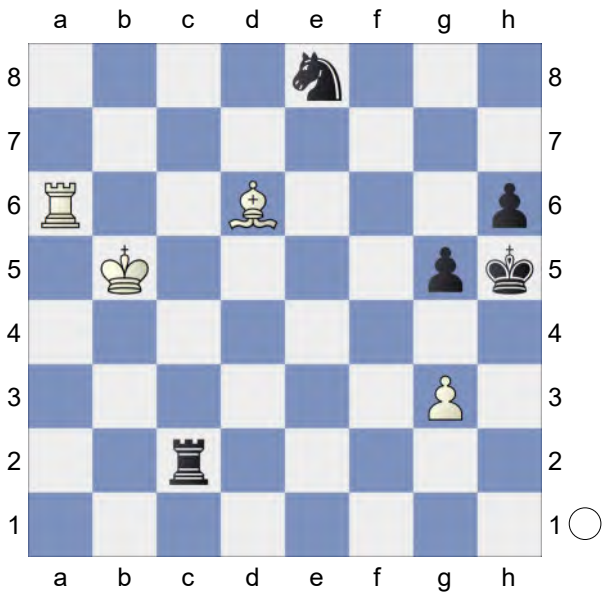


66.Ke4 Re2+ 67.Kd5 g5 68.Bf8 Ng4 69.Bd6 -2.45/20
[69.Bc5∓ -1.40/21 might work better.]
69...Nf6+-+ 70.Kc6 Rc2+



71.Kb5? -4.40/22
[71.Kb6 -2.37/23 keeps fighting.]
71...Ne8

(Diagram)

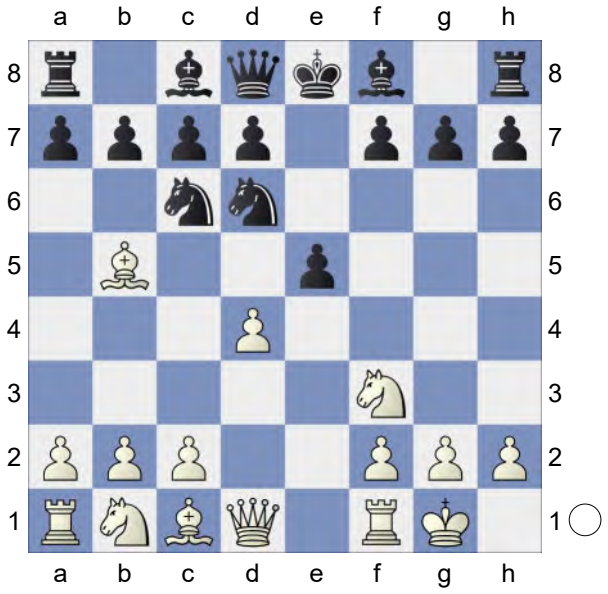


Never resign too early! Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) / Black=0.15 (very precise)

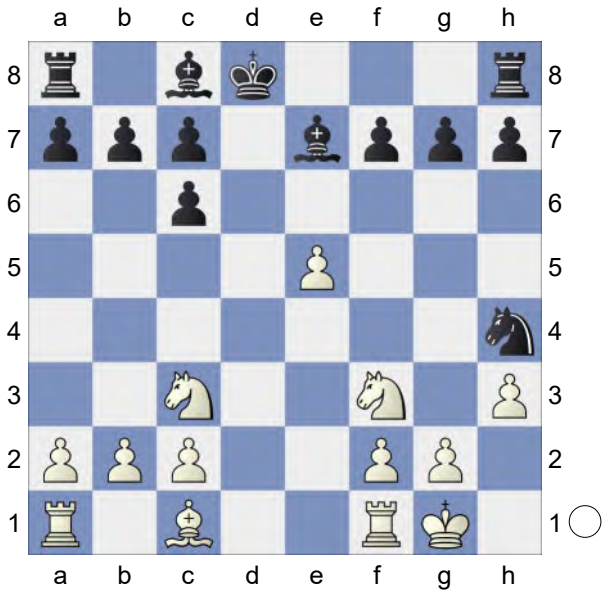
0-1

41 **C67**
□ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
■ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
Tata Steel Challengers (6.6) 24.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C67: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence: 4 0-0 Nxe4 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6**



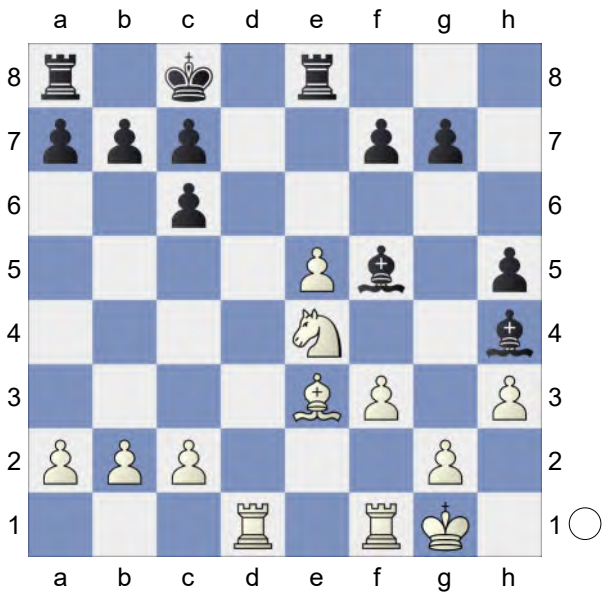
6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.h3 Be7 10.Nc3 Nh4



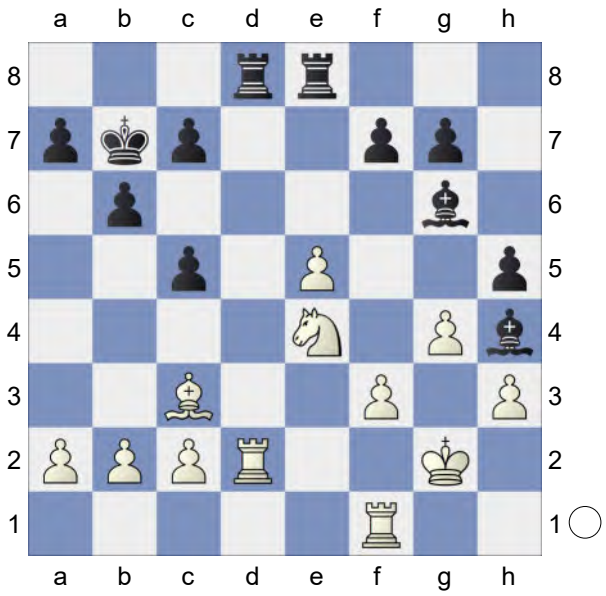
11.Nxh4 Bxh4 White is slightly better.

12.Be3
[12.Ne2 Bf5 13.Nd4 Bd7 14.f4 Be7 15.f5 Bc5 16.Be3 Re8 17.e6 fxe6 18.Nxe6+ Bxe6 19.Bxc5 Bd5 20.Rad1 b5 21.b3 Kc8 22.Rde1 Kd7 23.Bd4 g6 24.f6 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Re8 26.Rxe8 Kxe8 Grischuk,A (2750) -Eljanov,P (2753) Reykjavik ISL 2015 [Mikhalevski, V] ½-½ (40)]
12...h5 0.57/18
[12...Bf5= 0.09/19]
13.Ne4N
[13.Rad1+ Ke8 14.Ne4 *(14.Ne2 Be7 15.f4 f5 16.exf6 gxf6 17.f5 Kf7 18.g3 b6 19.Nc3 Re8 20.Rf3 Bd6 21.Kf2 Bb7 22.Bf4 c5 23.Rfd3 Bxf4 24.gxf4 Bc6 25.Nd5 Re4 26.Nxc7 Rg8 27.Ne6 Ke7 28.Rd6 Bb5* Vachier Lagrave,M (2736)-So,W (2760) Chess.com INT 2022 1-0 (39)*)* 14...Bf5 15.Ng5 Bxc2 16.Rd4 Bxg5 17.Bxg5 c5 18.Rd2 Ba4 19.b3 Bc6 20.Rfd1 f6 21.exf6 gxf6 22.Bxf6 Rg8 23.f4 Kf7 24.Bg5 a5 25.Rc1 b6 26.Kf2 Rae8 27.Kg3 Rg6 Juilfs,G (2585)-10.Be7 Qe7 11. Ne2_13982 (2637) Jugoslavija (ch) 63/ 501 2023 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/Meyer,CD] 1-0 (42)]
[13.f3 Bf5 14.g4 Bxc2 15.Rac1 Bh7 16.f4 Re8 17.Rcd1+ Kc8 18.Bf2 Be7 19.f5 b6 20.Bg3 Kb7 21.Kg2 Rad8 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.Rd1 Rxd1 24.Nxd1 c5 25.Kf3 Kc6 26.Ne3 hxg4+ 27.hxg4 b5 Dominguez Perez, L (2678)-Eljanov,P (2686) Foros 2007 CBM 119 [Marin,Mihail] ½-½ (62)]
13...Bf5 **14.Rad1+** The position is equal. **14...Kc8 15.f3 Re8**

(Diagram)

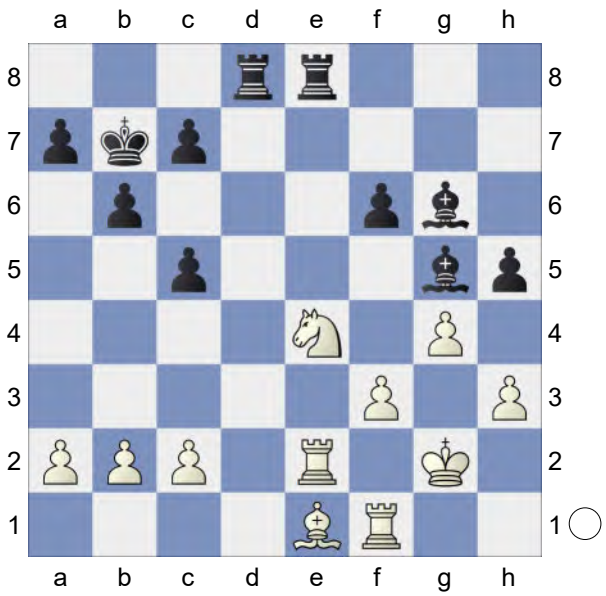


16.g4 Bg6 17.Bd4 b6 18.Bc3 c5 19.Rd2 Kb7 20.Kg2 Rad8

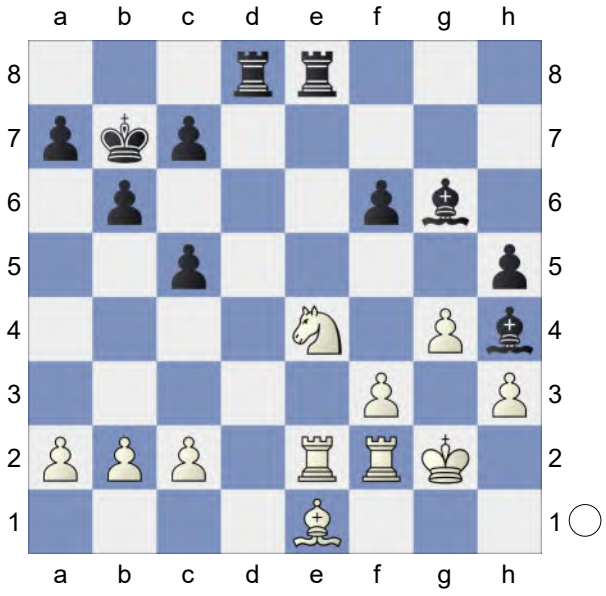


And now ...Rxd2+ would win. **21.Re2 f5 22.exf6 gxf6** next ...f5 is good for Black. **23.Be1 Bg5 24.Rff2! Bh4 25.Rf1 Bg5**

(Diagram)



26.Rff2! Bh4



Weighted Error Value: White=0. 04 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

42 **A46**
□ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
■ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
Tata Steel Challengers (6.7) 24.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

A46: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6: Torre, London and Colle Systems Inf 103/(31) **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4N**

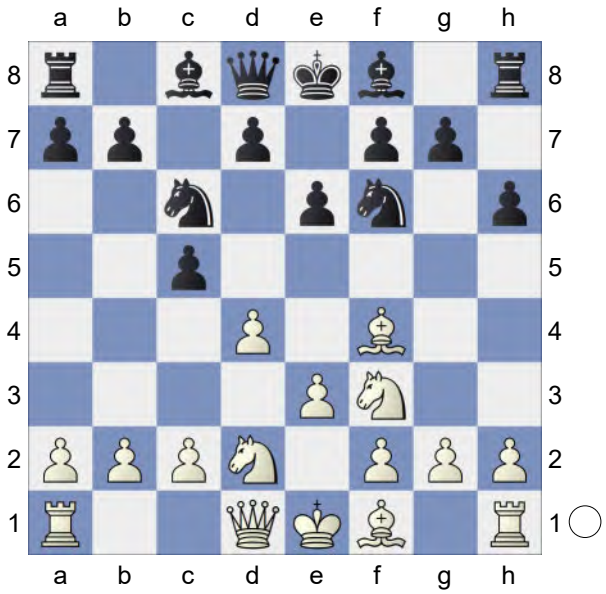
[3.Bg5 h6 4.Bxf6 Qxf6 5.e4 d6 6.Nc3 c6 7.Qd2 e5 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.Kb1 Nd7 10.h4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Ne5 12.f4 Ng4 13.h5 Hodgson,J (2535)-Polgar, Z (2520) Haifa 48/(78) 1989]

[3.c4 c5 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.a3 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 b6 8.Nb5 Ba6 9.Qe5 d6 10.Qg3 Qd7 11.e3 Rc8 12.Be2 d5 13.0-0 dxc4 14.a4 Ne4 15.Qg4 f5 16.Qh3 Qf7 17.Rd1 Bb4 Gubajdullin,A (2504)-Oleksienko,M (2590) Moscow 2008 CI1-130 [RR]]

[3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.0-0 cxd4 *(5...a6 6.c4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Qc7 8.Nc3 Be7 9.b3 0-0 10.Bb2 d6 11.Rc1 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Bd7 13.Rfd1 Rfd8 14.Qe3 Be8 15.h3 Bf8 16.g4 h6 17.Qg3 Qe7 18.h4 Bc6 19.g5 Bxg2 20.Kxg2* Sundararajan,K (2446)-Aroshidze,L (2547) Sants 106/(180) 2008 CI1-130 [RR]*)* 6.Nxd4 Bc5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.c4 0-0 9.Nc3 Na5 10.Nxa5 Qxa5 11.Bd2 Qc7 12.Rc1 a6 13.Bf4 e5 14.Bg5 Rb8 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Nd5 Qd8 17.c5 Bg5 Gonzalez Martin,P (2315)-11.Bg2 f6 12.0-0 Nc5 (1961) Taastrup 97/(200) 2023 Inf55 [John Watson] 1-0]

3...c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 h6

(Diagram)

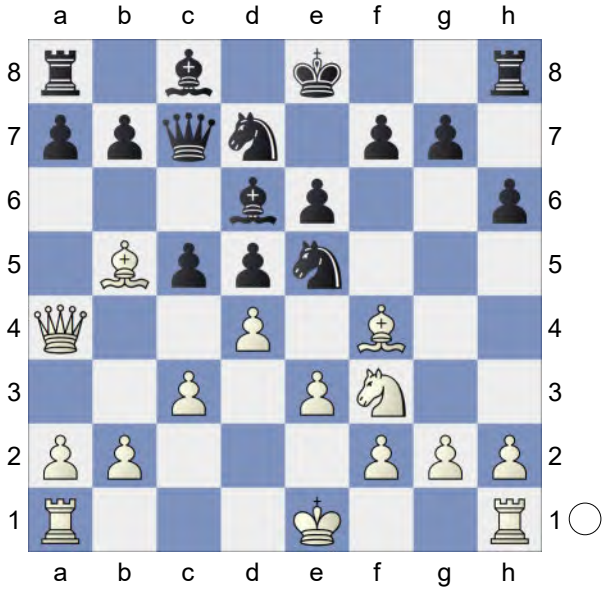


6.Nc4 d5 7.Nce5 Bd6 8.c3 Qc7 9.Bb5 Black must now prevent dxc5.

9...Nd7 10.Qa4

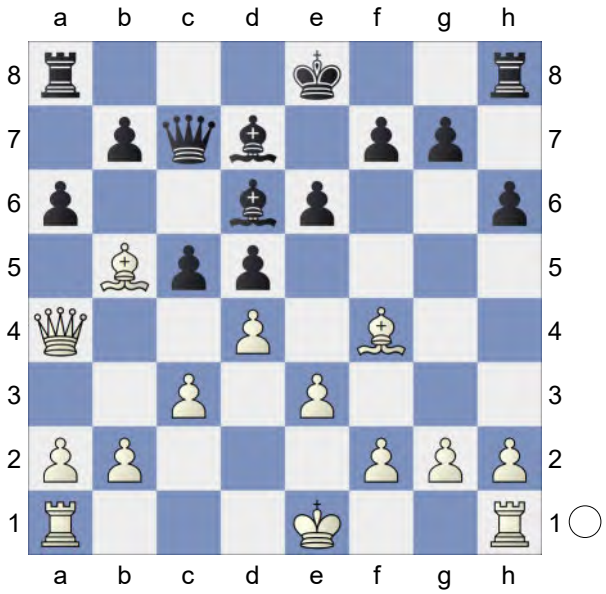
[10.Bxc6 is more complex. bxc6 11.Qa4 cxd4 12.cxd4 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 f6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.0-0]

10...Ncxe5

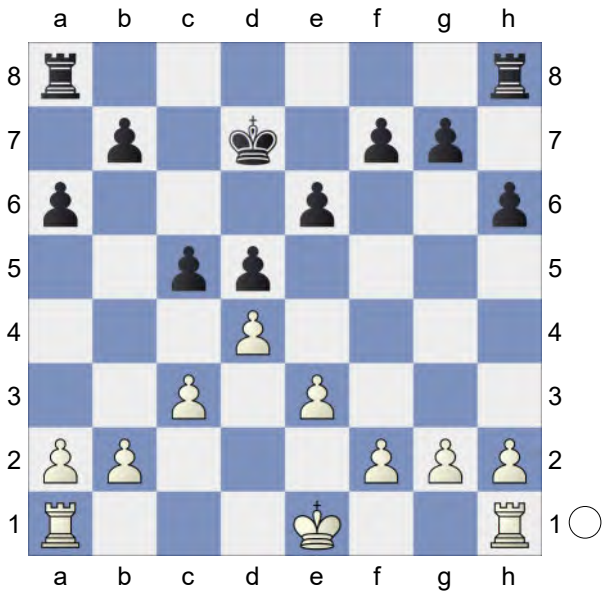


11.Nxe5 a6 12.Nxd7 Bxd7

(Diagram)

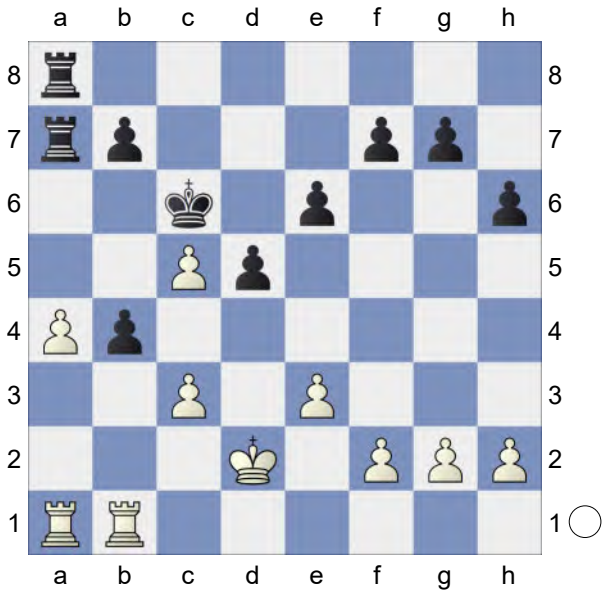


Pin **13.Bxd6 Qxd6 14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15.Qxd7+ Kxd7**

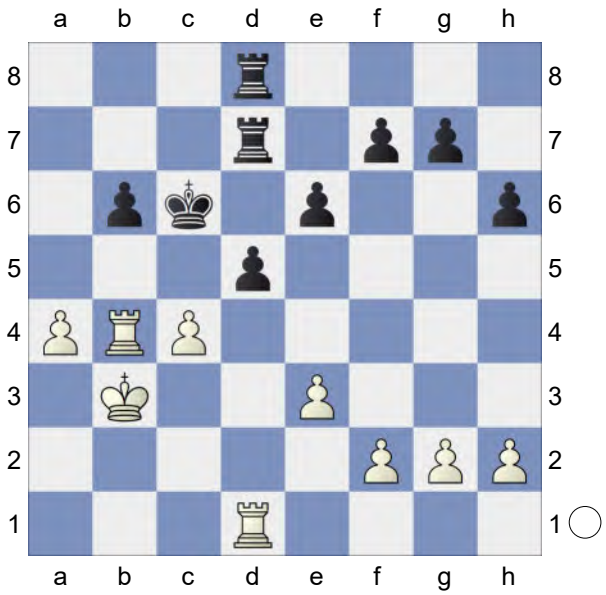


16.dxc5= Endgame KRR-KRR **16...Kc6 17.b4 a5 18.a4! Ra7! 19.Kd2 Rha8!** Strongly threatening ...axb4. **20.Rhb1 axb4**

(Diagram)

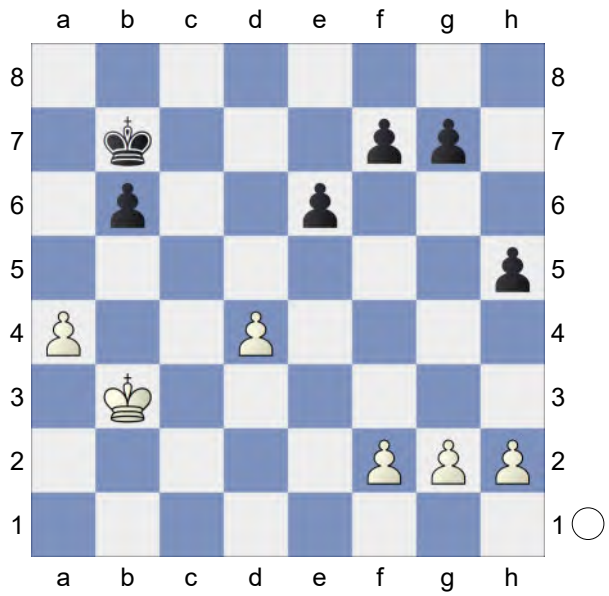


21.Rxb4 Kxc5 22.Kc2 b6 23.Kb3 Kc6 24.c4 Rd7 25.Rd1 Rad8

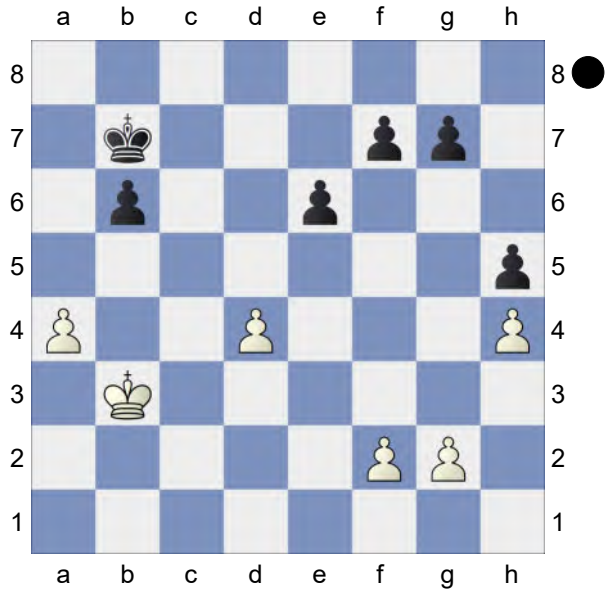


26.cxd5+ Rxd5 The position is equal. **27.Rc4+ Kb7 28.Rcd4 Rxd4 29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30.exd4 h5**

(Diagram)



31.h4

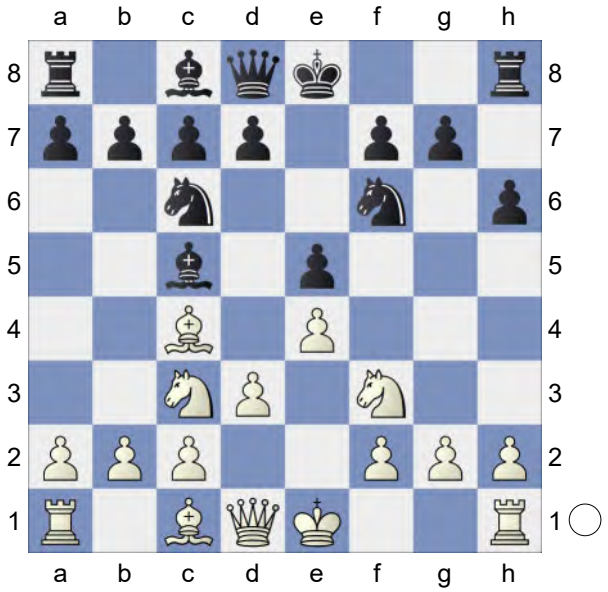


A balanced but interesting game. Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

½-½

43 **C50**
□ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
■ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
Tata Steel Challengers (7.1) 25.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.Nc3 h6**



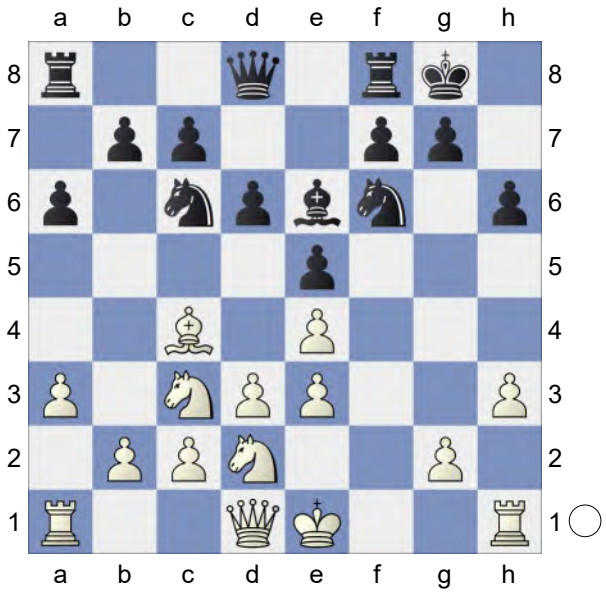
6.h3 a6

[6...d6 7.Na4 Bb6 8.a3 Be6 *(8...Ne7 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.Ba2 Ng6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Be6 13.Bb1 Re8 14.d4 c6 15.c3 Qc7 16.Be3 Rad8 17.a4 d5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 dxe4 20.Qc2 Qxe5 21.Bxb6 Qg5 22.Bxd8 Rxd8 23.Qc1* Quist,J (2427)-14.Ne4 Rb8 15.c4 Re8_14 (2165) London 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson] 1-0 (38) *)* 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.b4 0-0 11.0-0 Qe8 12.c4 Nd4 13.Nxb6 Nxf3+ 14.Qxf3 axb6 15.Qe2 Qg6 16.Ra2 Nh5 17.Qg4 Kh7 18.Qxg6+ Kxg6 19.a4 Nf6 20.Be3 Nd7 21.Rfa1 Nepomniachtchi,I (2792)-Caruana,F (2820) Paris 2021 CBM 203 Extra [GM Luis Supi] 1-0 (64)]

7.Be3N

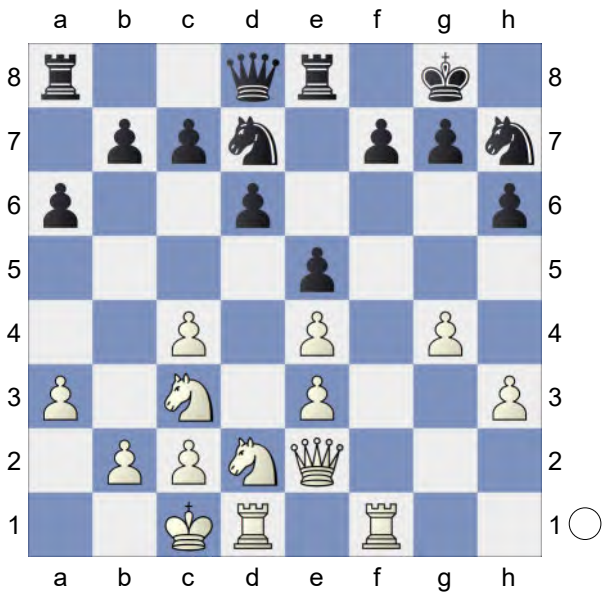
[7.a4 d6 8.Be3 *(8.Ne2 Ne7 9.Ng3 Ng6 10.0-0 0-0 11.c3 c6 12.d4 Ba7 13.Bd3* Chapter-B6*)* 8...Bxe3 *(8...0-0 9.0-0 Bxe3 10.fxe3 a5 11.d4 exd4 12.exd4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 d5 14.Bd3 dxe4 15.Bxe4 Qd6 16.c3 Be6 17.Nh4 Qg3 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.Bxf5 Rae8 20.Rf3 Qg5 21.Qb3 Re3 22.Qd5 Re2 23.Rff1* Larand,M (2620)-3.g3 b5 4.Bg2_26933 (2560) Merida 2022 MAINB (21) [John Watson] 0-1 (38)*)* 9.fxe3 Be6 10.Nd2 Bxc4 11.Nxc4 0-0 12.0-0 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.e4 Nxc3 15.bxc3 b5 16.Ne3 Ne7 17.Rf3 Qd7 18.Rg3 Qe6 19.Qh5 Kh7 20.Kh2 g6 21.Qg4 Qc6 Alekseenko,K (2708)-Pranav, A (2463) Biel 2022 CBM 209 Extra [GM Luis Supi] 1-0 (37)]

7...Bxe3 8.fxe3 d6 The position is equal. **9.a3 Be6 10.Nd2 0-0**

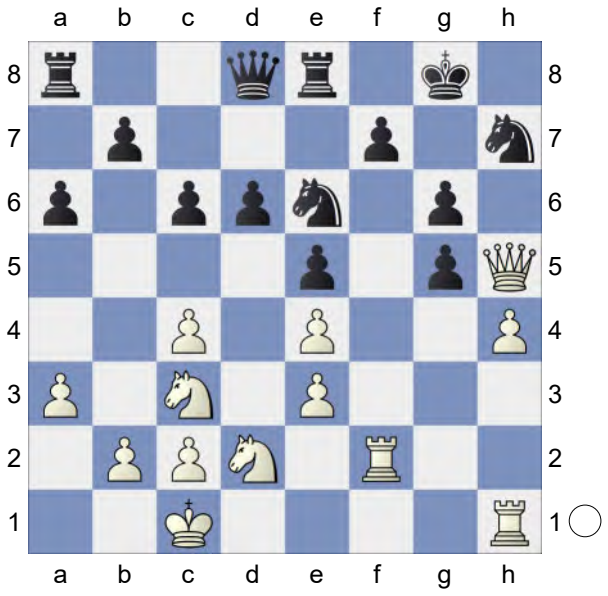


11.Qe2 Re8 12.Rf1 Nb8 13.0-0-0 Bxc4 14.dxc4 Nbd7 15.g4 Nh7

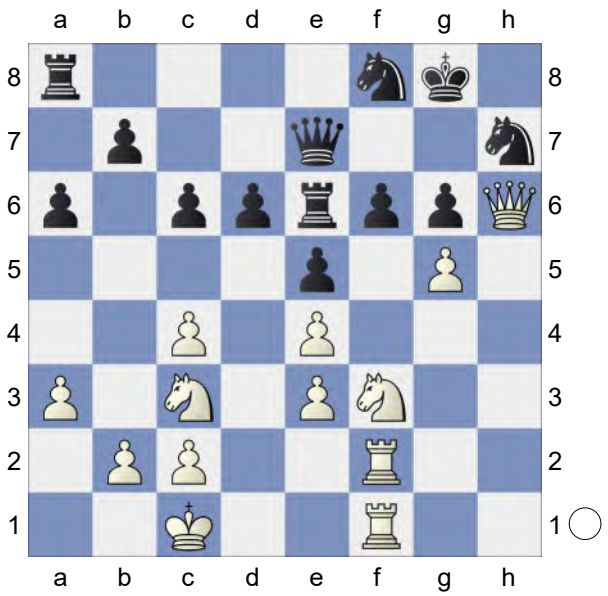
(Diagram)



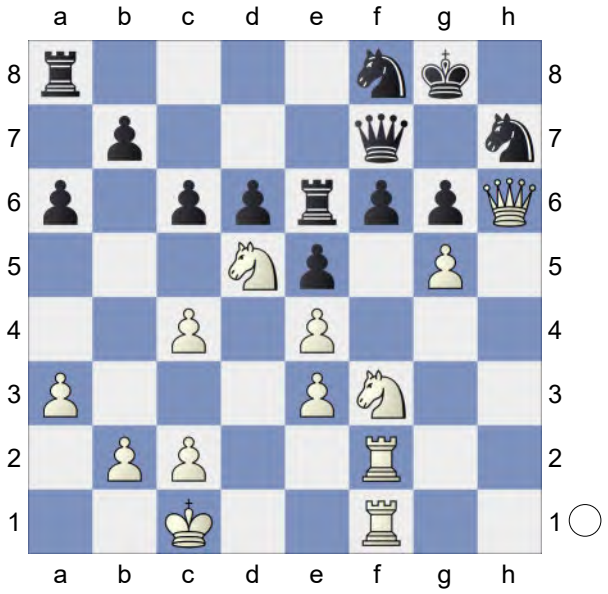
16.Rf2 Nc5 17.Rh1 c6 18.h4 Ne6 0.60/20 Prevents g5.
[18...f6!= 0.22/18 deserves consideration.]
19.g5±
[19.Qf3 f6=]
19...hxg5 20.Qh5 g6



21.Qh6 Nef8 22.Rhf1 &Bianco is more active. **22...f6** 1.19/22
[22...Re7!± 0.58/21]
23.hxg5± Re6 24.Nf3 Qe7? 3.06/22
[24...Qc7± 1.19/21]

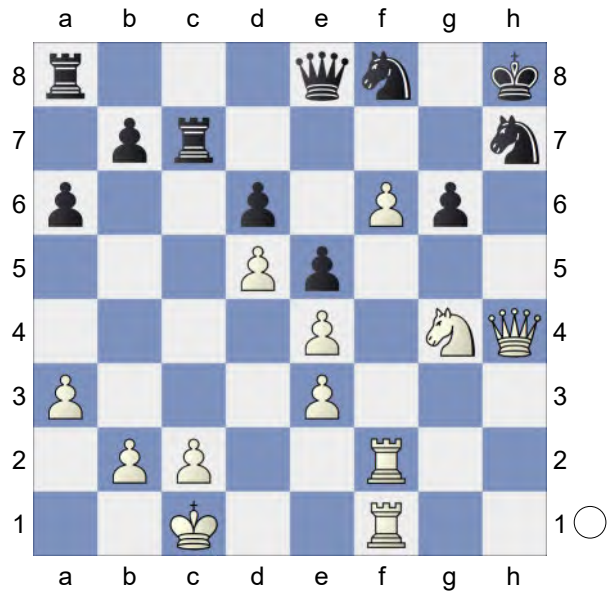


25.Nd5!+- Qf7

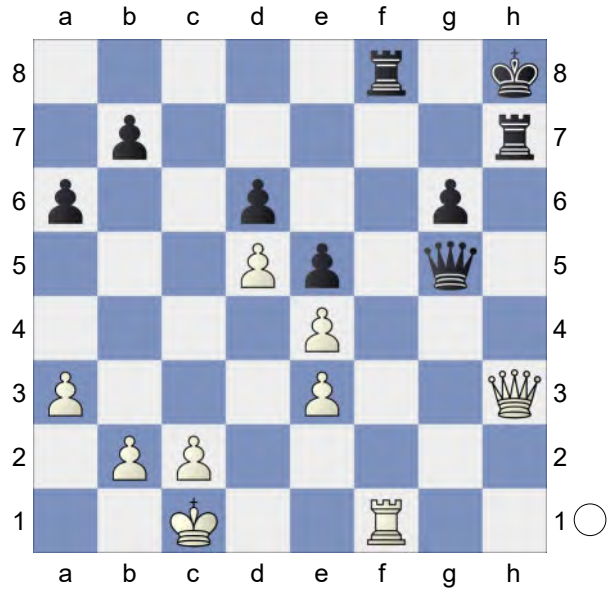


26.Nh2 cxd5 27.cxd5 Re7 28.Ng4 Rc7
[28...f5? 29.exf5 gxf5 30.Rxf5+-]
29.Qh4
[29.gxf6?! Kh8±]
[29.Nxf6+?! Nxf6 30.gxf6 *(30.Rxf6 Qg7=)* 30...Qh7=]
29...Qe8 1.94/24
[29...Kh8± 1.50/21]
30.gxf6 1.06/25
[White should try 30.Rh1+- 1.94/24 Kh8 31.Nxf6 *(31.gxf6 b5±)*]

30...Kh8 1.54/22
[30...g5? 31.f7+ Rxf7 32.Nh6+ Kh8 33.Nxf7++-]
[⌓30...Rf7 1.06/25]

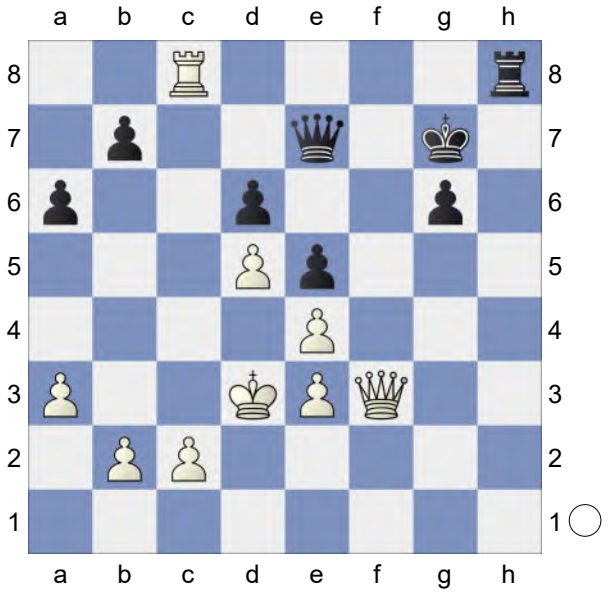


31.f7± Qd8 32.Qh3 Qg5 33.Nf6 The board is on fire. **33...Rxf7 34.Nxh7** Remove Defender, Deflection **34...Rxh7 35.Rxf8+ Rxf8**

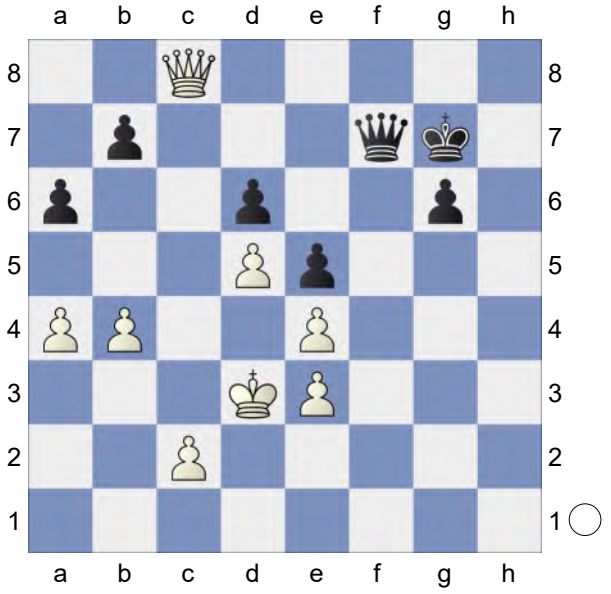


36.Rxf8+ Endgame KQR-KQR **36...Kg7 37.Qf3→** White attacks with force. **37...Rh1+ 38.Kd2**
[38.Qxh1?! Qxe3+ 39.Kb1 Kxf8=]

38...Rh2+ 39.Kd3 White wants to mate with Qf7+. **39...Qe7** Against Qf7+ **40.Rc8 Rh8**

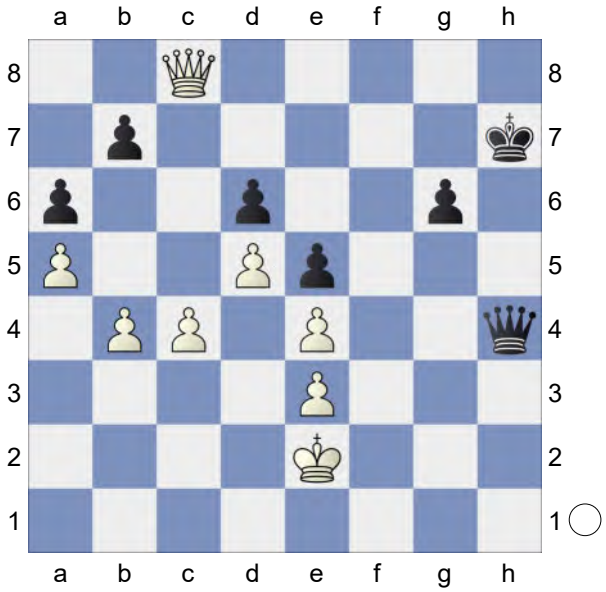


41.Rxh8 Kxh8 KQ-KQ **42.Qh3+ Kg7 43.Qc8 Kh6** 1.57/22
[⌓43...Qf7 1.25/22]
44.b4 Kg7 2.22/21
[44...Kg5 1.75/21 was called for. 45.Kd2 Kh5]
45.a4+- Qf7



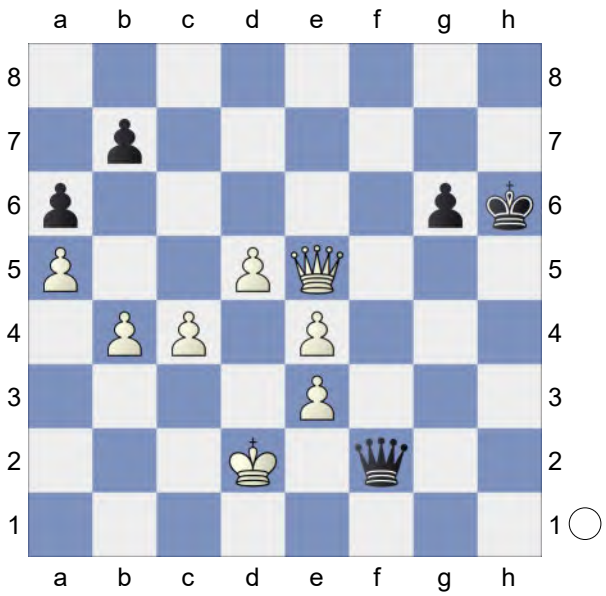
46.Ke2 Prevents Qf1+. **46...Qe7** Against Qd8 **47.a5 Kh7** 2.31/26
[⌓47...Kf6 1.64/26 48.c3 g5]

48.Kd3 Qf7 2.52/24
[48...Kh6 1.87/24 was necessary. 49.c4 Qf7]
49.Ke2? 0.01/19
[49.Kc3+- 2.52/24]
49...Qe7!= 50.c4 Qh4 4.25/26
[⌓50...Kg7 2.75/25 51.c5 Qg5 52.Qd7+ *(52.cxd6 Qg2+ 53.Kd3 Qf1+ 54.Kc2 Qe2+ 55.Kb3 Qd3+ 56.Qc3 Qxe4±)* 52...Kg8]

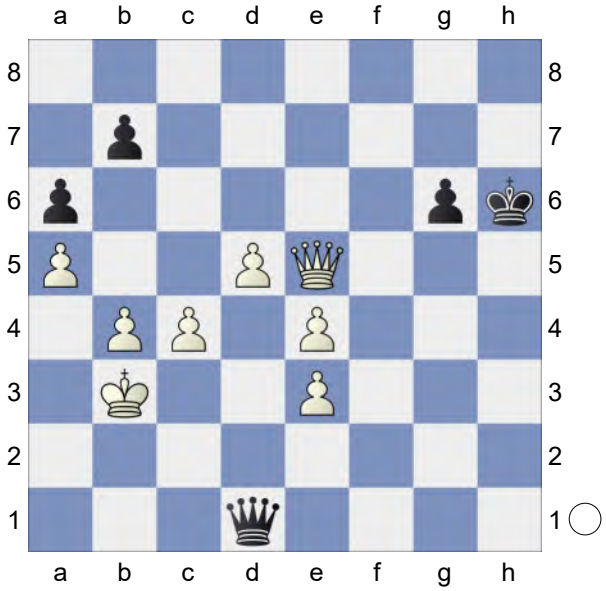


51.Qc7+? 0.01/25
[51.Qxb7++- 4.25/26 Kh6 52.Qxa6 Qh2+ 53.Kd3]
51...Kh6 52.Qxd6 Qh2+ 53.Kd3
Hoping for Qf8+. **53...Qf2** Inhibits Qf8+.
54.Qxe5 Qf1+ 55.Kd2 aiming for Qf4+.
55...Qf2+

(Diagram)

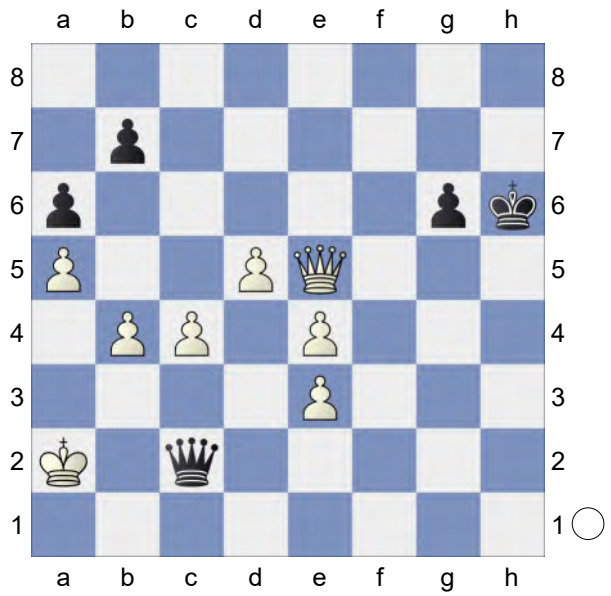


56.Kd3 Qf1+ 57.Kd2 Qf2+ 58.Kd1
[58.Kd3?! Qf1+±]
58...Qf1+ 59.Kc2
[59.Kd2 Qf2+±]
59...Qe2+! 60.Kb3 Qd1+

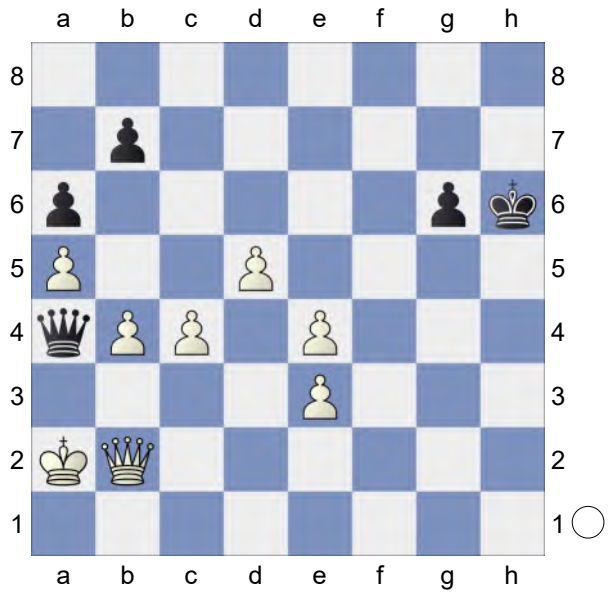


61.Kb2 Qd2+ 62.Kb3 Qd1+ 63.Kb2 Qd2+ 64.Ka3 Qd3+ 65.Ka2 Qc2+

(Diagram)

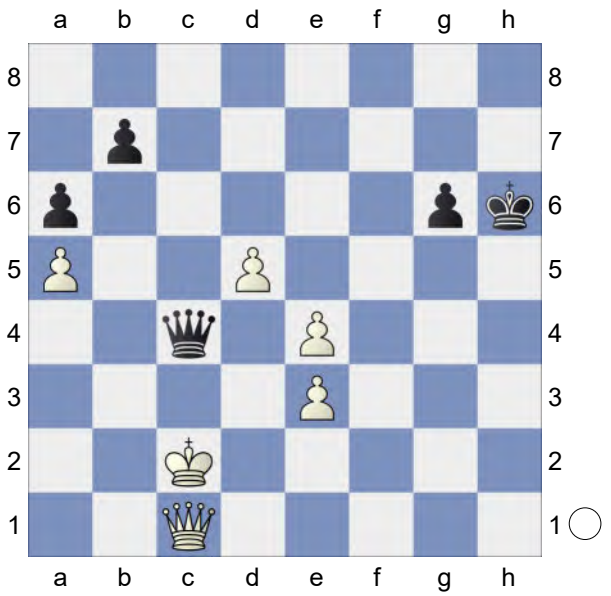


66.Ka3 Qd3+ 67.Ka2 Threatens to win with Qd4. **67...Qc2+! 68.Qb2 Qa4+! 69.Kb1 Qd1+ 70.Ka2 Qa4+**

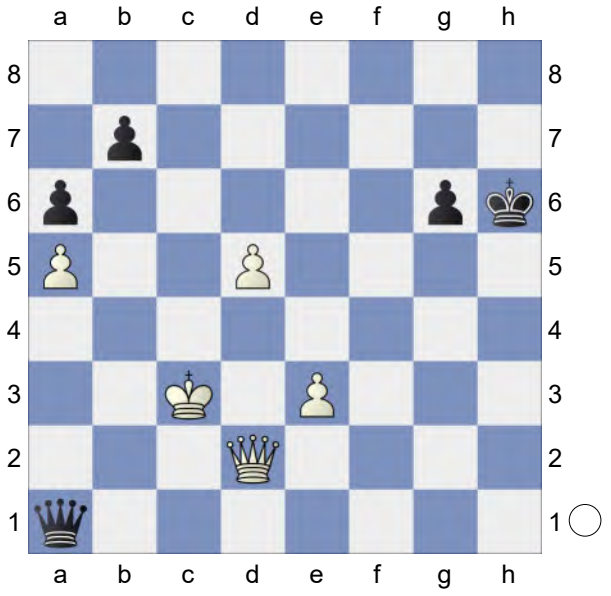


71.Kb1 Qd1+ 72.Qc1 Qb3+ 73.Ka1! Strongly threatening Qd2.
[73.Qb2 Qd1+±]
73...Qa4+ 74.Kb2 Qxb4+ 75.Kc2! Qxc4+

(Diagram)



76.Kd2 Qxe4 77.Qc5 Qf5 78.Qd4 Qf2+ 79.Kc3 Qe1+ 80.Qd2 Qa1+



81.Kb4 Kc5 is the strong threat.
81...Qb1+ 1.49/22
[⌓81...Qe5 0.98/22]
82.Kc5± And now Kd6 would win.
82...b6+ 83.Kd4 0.29/18
[Much less strong is 83.axb6 Qb5+ 84.Kd6 Qxb6+ 85.Ke7 Qc7+ 86.Ke6 Qc8+ 87.Ke5 Qe8+ 88.Kd6 g5±]
[83.Kd6!± 1.57/21 bxa5 84.Qxa5 *(84.e4+ g5=)*]
83...Qa1+ 1.26/23

[83...bxa5!= 0.29/18 84.d6 *(84.Qxa5 Qb8±)* 84...Qb6+ 85.Ke5 Qd8]

84.Ke4 Black must now prevent Qh2+.

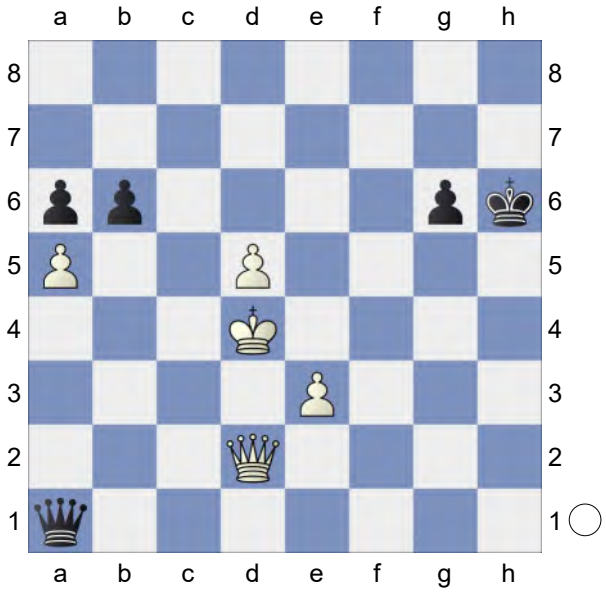
84...Qb1+ 1.92/21

[84...bxa5± 1.03/22 might work better. 85.d6 Qh1+ 86.Kd4 Qc6 87.Qh2+ Kg7]

85.Kd4? -0.01/17

[85.Ke5!+- 1.92/21]

85...Qa1+=

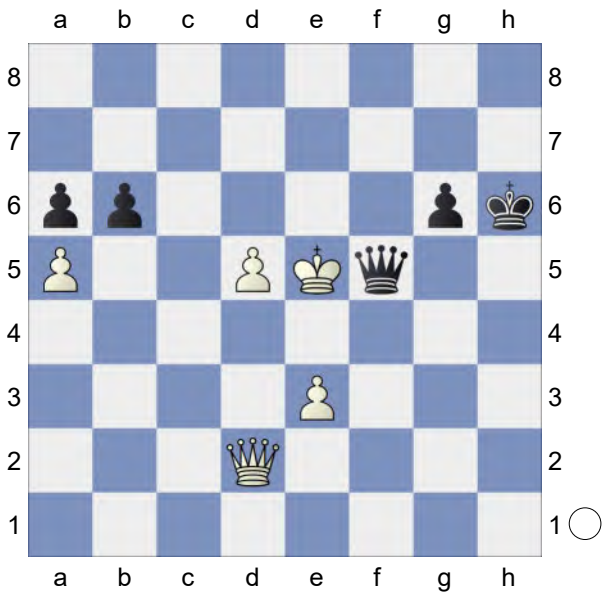


86.Ke4 0.01/18

[86.Qc3± 1.01/21 Qa4+ 87.Qc4 Qxa5 88.Ke5]

86...Qb1+! 87.Ke5 Qf5+

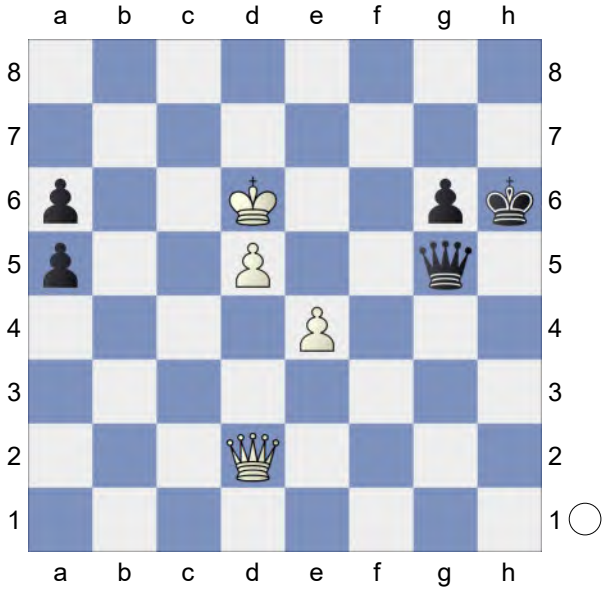
(Diagram)



88.Kd6! e4+ would kill now. **88...bxa5?** 13.29/19

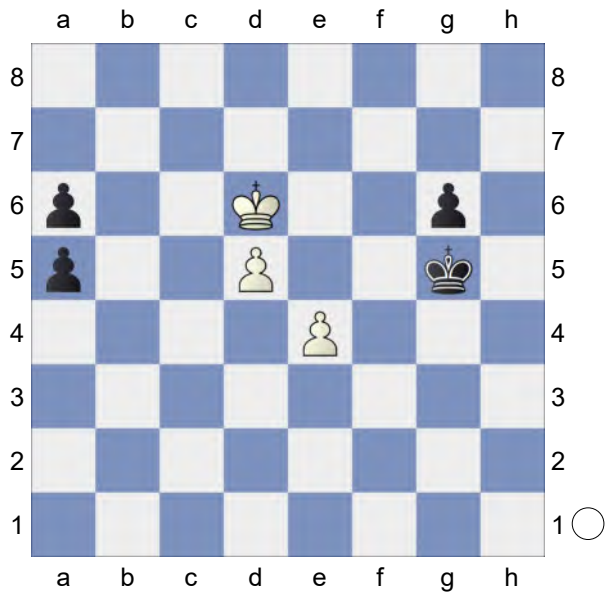
[88...Qf6+ 2.19/20 89.Kc7 Qe7+ 90.Kxb6 Qd6+ 91.Kb7 g5]

89.e4+!+- Discovered Attack **89...Qg5**



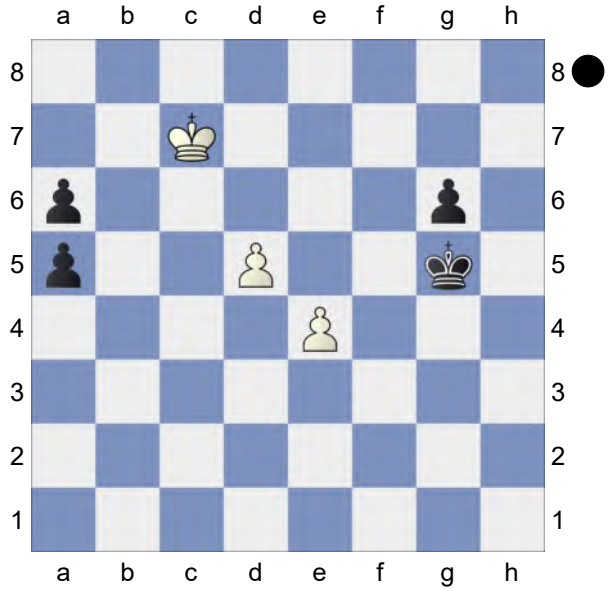
90.Qxg5+! Kxg5

(Diagram)



91.Kc7 10.32/24

[⌓91.Ke5 #15/22 Kg4 92.d6 Kg3 93.d7 a4 94.d8Q Kf3 95.Qd3+ Kg4 96.Qd1+ Kg3 97.Kf6]



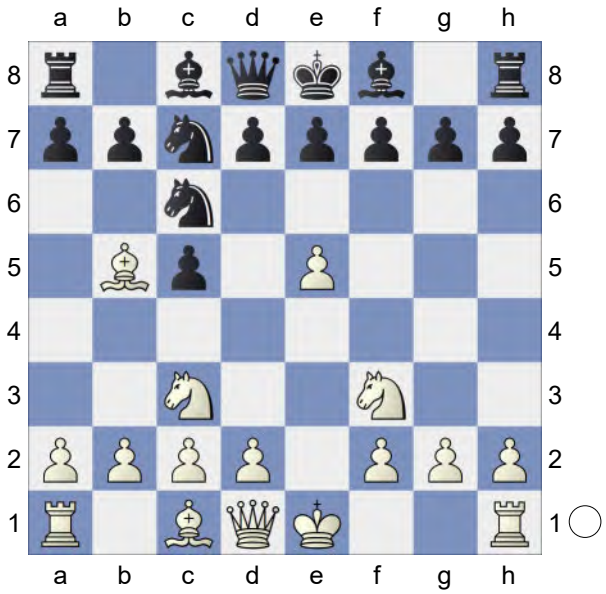
Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

1-0

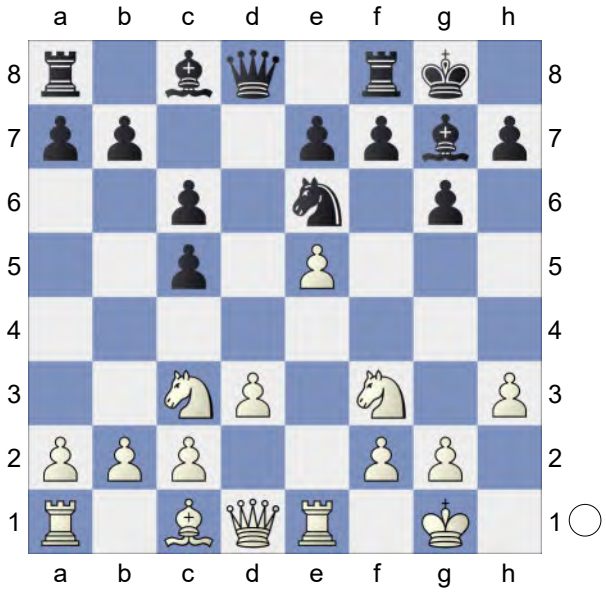
44 **B30**
□ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
■ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
Tata Steel Challengers (7.2) 25.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B31: Sicilian: 2... Nc6 3 Bb5 g6 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6**
[3...e6 4.d4 Nge7 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Bd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.a3 Rc8 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Be4 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bf6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 Qc7 17.c4 Red8 18.Rad1 Hanke,L (2709)-10.Bc2 c5 11.Nbd2 (2728) corr ICCF 2006 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 1-0 (72)]
4.e5N
[4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.e5 Nd5 6.0-0 g6 7.c4 Nc7 8.d4 cxd4 9.Qxd4 Bg7 10.Qh4 Ne6 *(10...Ba6 11.Nc3 Ne6 12.Re1 Qc7 13.Bd2 f6 14.Bh6 Bxh6 15.Qxh6 0-0-0 16.Rac1 Rdf8 17.Nd5 Qd8 18.exf6 exf6 19.b4 Kb8 20.b5 cxb5 21.cxb5 Bb7 22.Qd2 Re8 23.a4 g5 24.Red1 d6 25.b6* 5.Bg2 Bb4 6.Nbd2 (2611)-Nedev,T (2574) USSR 37/(431) 2002 Telechess CBM 89 [Weekly Irish Times 14 Aug 1909] 1-0*)* 11.Bh6 *(11.Nc3 h6 12.Re1 Rb8 13.b3 a5 14.Bd2 Ba6 15.Rad1 Qc7 16.Bc1 Bc8 17.Ba3 g5 18.Qg3 Nf4 19.Bd6 Qb7 20.Bxb8 Qxb8 21.Ne2 Ne6 22.Ned4 Nf4 23.Nf5 Kf8 24.Nxg7 Kxg7 25.h4 f6* 8.0-0 Nbc6 9.Bb5 a6_61385 (2441) -Cullip,S (2230) Gothenburg 2022 Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 1-0 (32)*)* 11...0-0 12.Nc3 f6 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Rad1 fxe5 15.Nxe5 Qe8 16.Rfe1 Rf5 17.Nf3 1 Chapter-Games Game]

4...Nd5 5.Nc3 Nc7

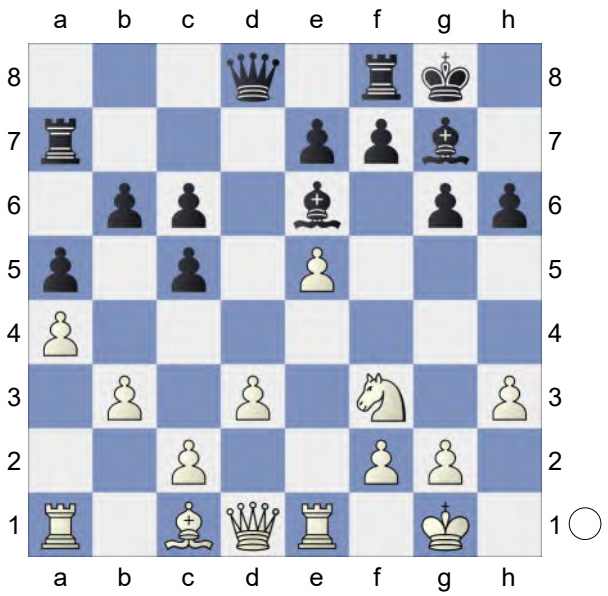


6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.d3 g6 8.h3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Ne6

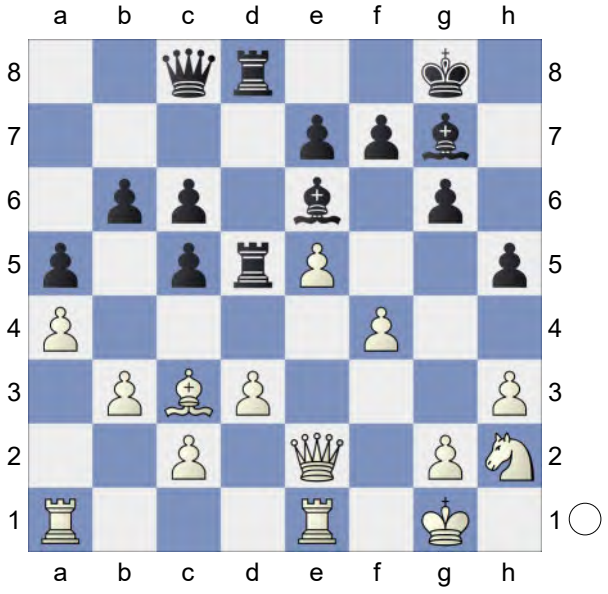


11.a4 a5 12.Ne2 b6 13.Nf4 Ra7 The position is equal. **14.b3 h6** 0.43/16
[14...Nd4= 0.08/18 deserves consideration.]
15.Nxe6± Bxe6

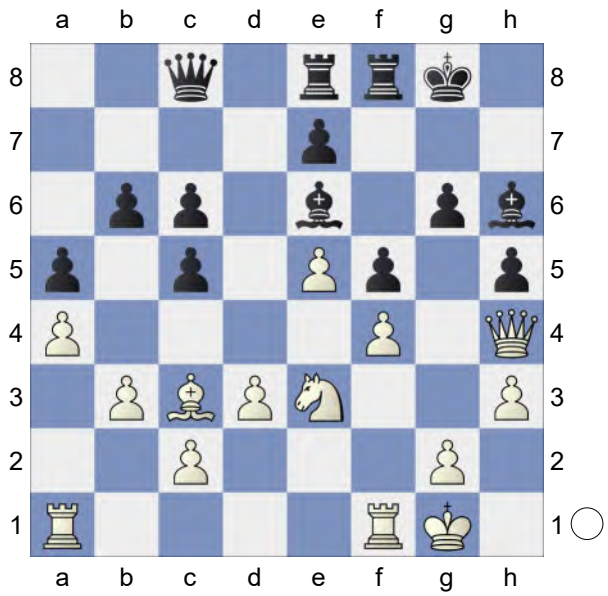
(Diagram)



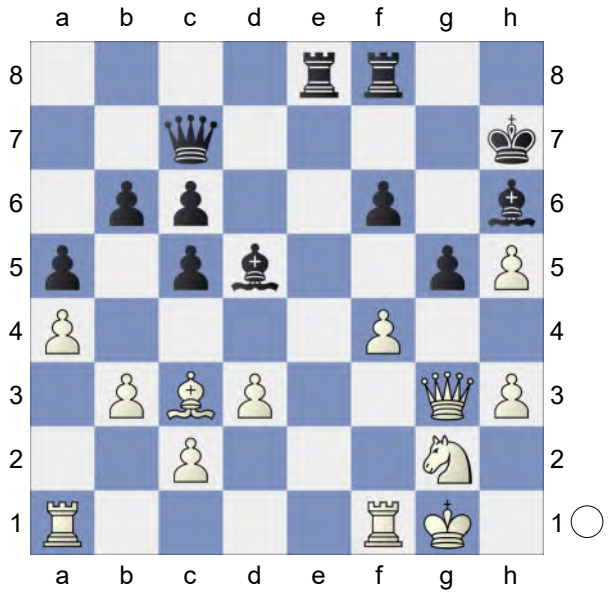
16.Bb2 Qc8 17.Qe2 -0.08/17
[White should play 17.Nd2± 0.53/19]
17...Rd8 0.73/19
[17...Rd7!= -0.08/17]
18.Bc3 Rad7 19.Nh2 Rd5 20.f4! h5



21.Nf1 Bh6 22.Qf2 Prevents Rd4.
22...Rf8 23.Ne3 Rdd8 24.Qh4 Rde8 1.45/19
[⌓24...Qd7 0.92/18]
25.Rf1 0.85/21
[⌓25.Re2 1.45/19]
25...f5±
(Diagram)

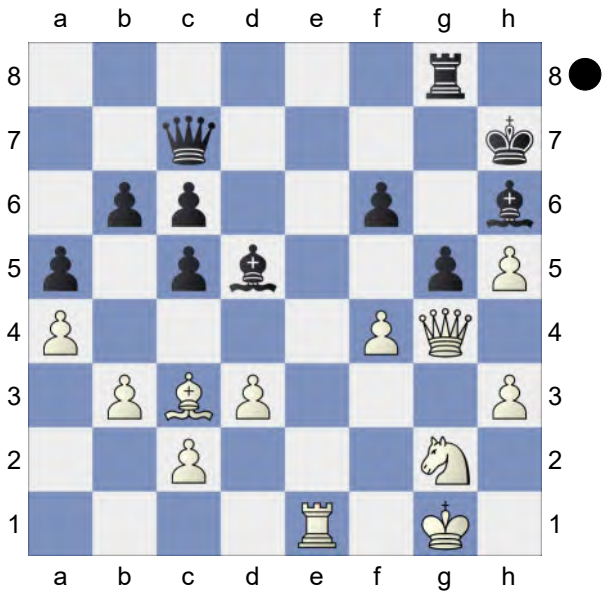


26.exf6 &Bianco is more active.
26...exf6 27.g4 Qc7 28.Ng2 Bd5 29.gxh5 g5
[Weaker is 29...Re2 30.Rf2 g5 31.Qg4 Rxf2 32.Kxf2±]
30.Qg3 0.47/20
[30.Qg4± 0.79/22]
30...Kh7 1.08/20
[30...Re7± 0.47/20 31.Qg4 Qd7]

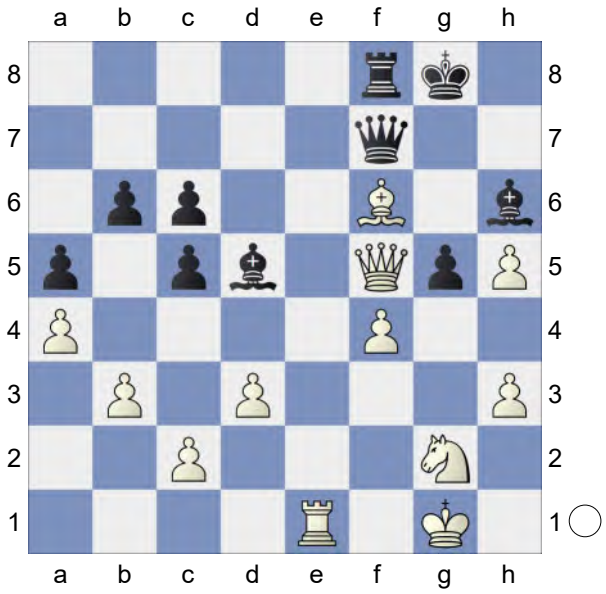


31.Rae1 Hoping for Rxe8. **31...Rxe1** 1.43/20
[⌓31...f5 0.77/21]

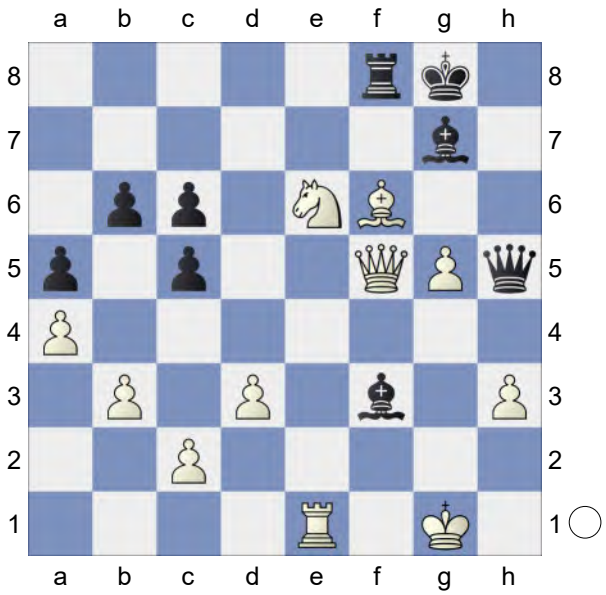
32.Rxe1 Rg8? 5.19/23 This costs Black the game.
[32...Qd6± 1.52/19 is a better chance. 33.Ne3 Be6]
33.Qg4+-



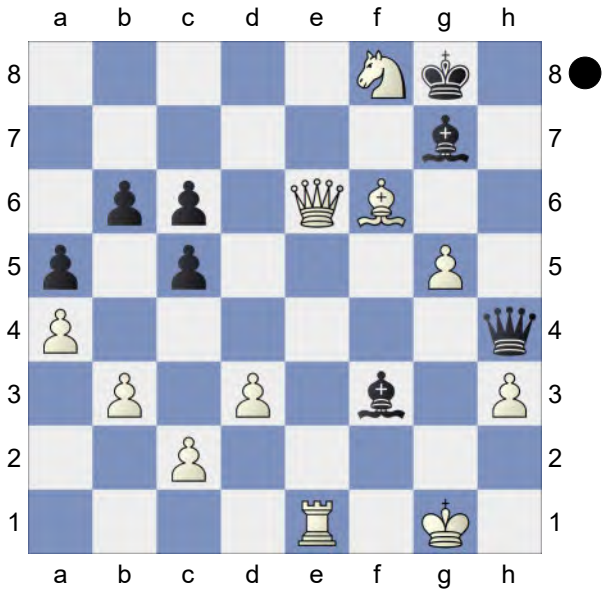
White threatens Qf5+ and mate. **33...Rf8 34.Qf5+ Kg8 35.Bxf6 Qf7**



36.fxg5 Threatens to win with Re7.
36...Bg7 37.Nf4? 3.24/23
[Not 37.Re7 Qxe7 38.Qxd5+ cxd5∓]
[37.Qg4 9.10/22]
37...Bf3? 7.47/23
[37...Bxf6 3.24/23 38.gxf6 Qxf6 39.Qxf6 Rxf6]
38.Ne6
[But not 38.Re7? Qxe7 39.Kf2 Bd1-+]
38...Qxh5



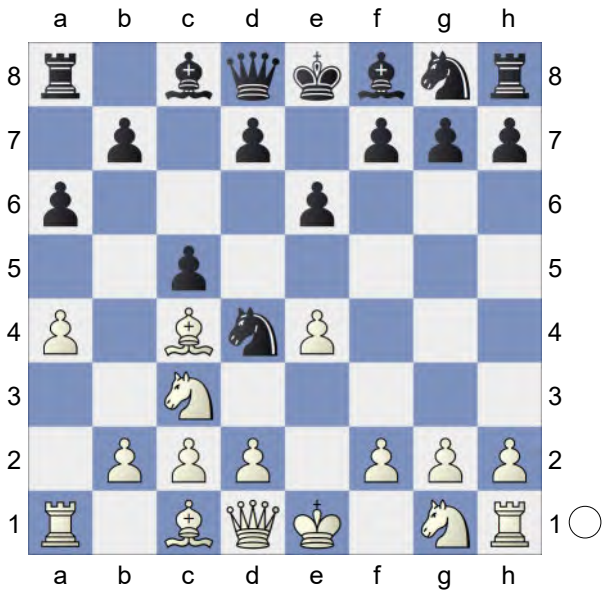
aiming for ...Rxf6! **39.Nxf8 Qh4 40.Qe6+**



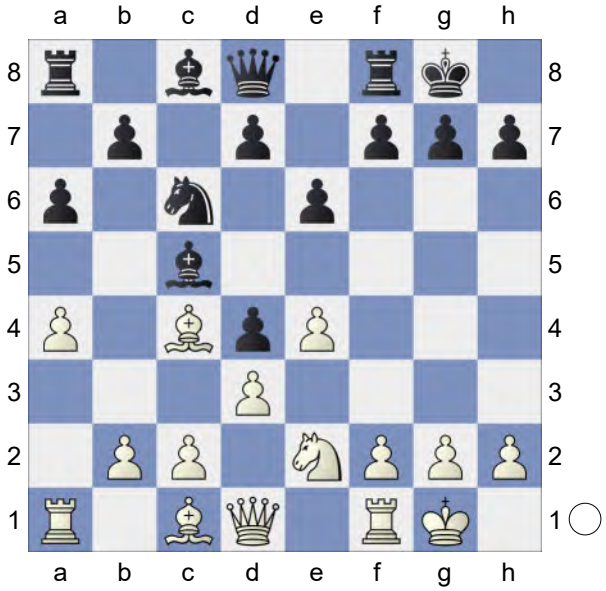
Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/Black=0.81
1-0

45 **B23**
□ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
■ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
Tata Steel Challengers (7.3) 25.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B23: Closed Sicilian: Lines without g3 Re2+ was a nice touch, converting the advantage from an exchange up to a piece up. Black's play was tactically powerful throughout the game. Re2+ was a nice touch, converting the advantage from an exchange up to a piece up. Black's play was tactically powerful throughout the game. B23: Closed Sicilian: Lines without g3 **1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Bc4 a6 5.a4 e6**

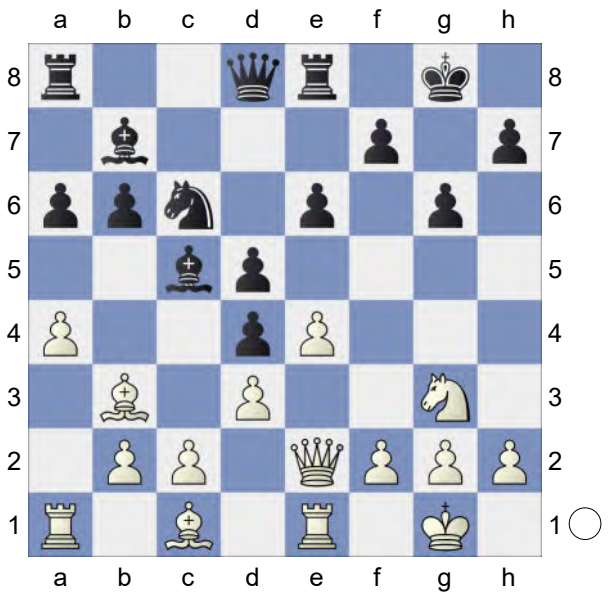


6.Nge2 Ne7
[6...Nf6 7.0-0 d5 8.exd5 exd5 9.Ba2 Ne6 10.d3 Bd6 11.Ng3 h5 12.Re1 Kf8 13.h3 Bc7 14.d4 h4 15.Nf1 cxd4 16.Ne2 Ne4 17.c3 Qd6 18.cxd4 N6g5 19.Nf4 Bf5 20.Qb3 Rd8 21.Qa3 Holtman, T (2562)-10. Bf6 Bf6 11.c3 00 12N (2473) USSR 37/292 2023 The Week in Chess 404 [John Watson] 1-0 (57)]
7.Nxd4N
[7.0-0 d5 8.exd5 exd5 9.Nxd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.Qh5 Be6 12.Re1 Be7 13.Rxe6 Nf4 14.Rxe7+ Qxe7 15.Qf3 *(15.Qg4 d3 16.h3 Qe1+ 17.Kh2 Qxf2 18.Qxg7 0-0-0 19.Qg4+ Kb8 20.Qg3 Qxg3+ 21.Kxg3 Rd4 22.b3 Rg8+ 23.Kf3 Nxg2 24.cxd3 Ne1+ 25.Ke2 Nxd3 26.Bxf7 Rg3 27.Ba3 Re4+ 28.Kd1 Rg1+* 0-1 (28) Matei,A (1627)-15.Nd4 d5 16.e5 Ne4_15226 (2518) Khanty Mansiysk 2023 Inf 73 [John Watson]*)* 15...Ng6 16.Qa3 Qxa3 17.Rxa3 0-0 18.Ra1 b5 19.Bf1 Rac8 20.c3 Rfe8 21.f3 Nf4 Reference Games-Ajak,M [Mickey Mouse] (50)]
7...cxd4 8.Ne2 The position is equal.
8...Nc6 9.0-0 Bc5 10.d3 0-0

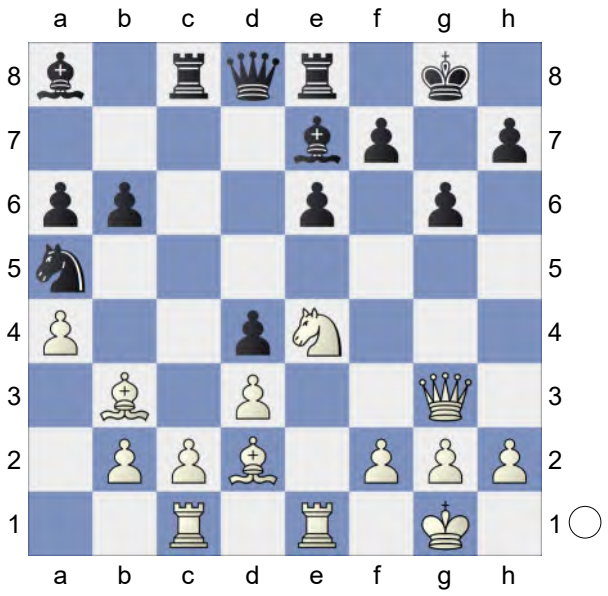


11.Ng3 b6 12.Qh5 g6 13.Qe2
[13.Qh6 feels hotter. Be7 14.f4 d5 15.Ba2]
13...d5 14.Bb3 Re8 15.Re1 Threatening exd5. **15...Bb7**

(Diagram)

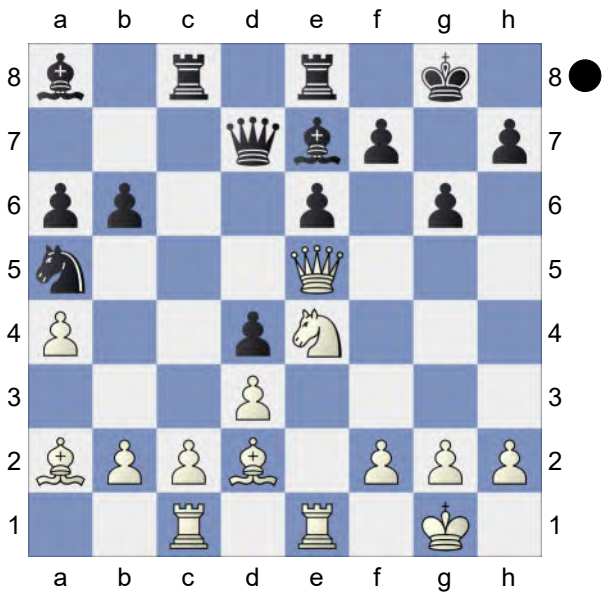


16.Bd2 With the idea exd5. **16...dxe4 17.Nxe4 Be7 18.Qf3 Rc8 19.Rac1 Ba8 20.Qg3 Na5**



21.Ba2 Qd7 22.Qe5

(Diagram)



aiming for Bh6. **22...Bxe4 23.Qxe4** -0.70/20

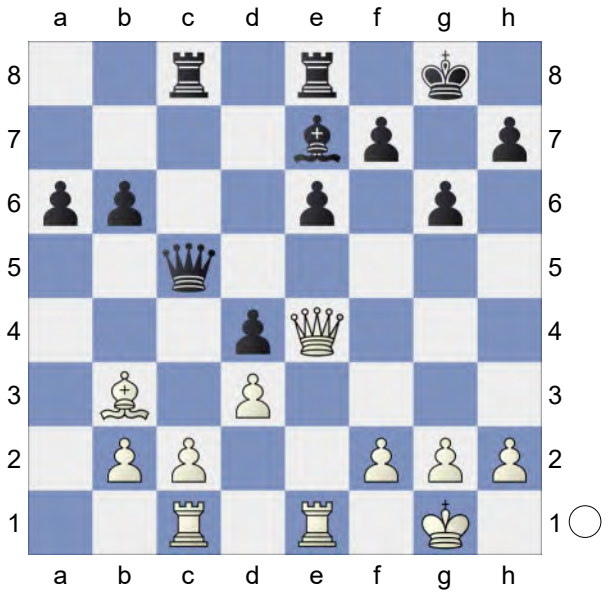
[23.Rxe4= -0.01/22 Qxa4 24.Bxe6 *(24.Bh6 Bf8∓)* 24...fxe6 25.Rxd4 *(25.Bh6 Bf8∓; 25.Qxe6+ Kg7∓)*]

23...Qxa4∓ 24.Bxa5 -1.41/22

[24.Ra1∓ -0.69/21 Qd7 25.Bxa5 bxa5 26.Bb3]

24...Qxa5∓ 25.Bb3 Qc5 -1.30/18

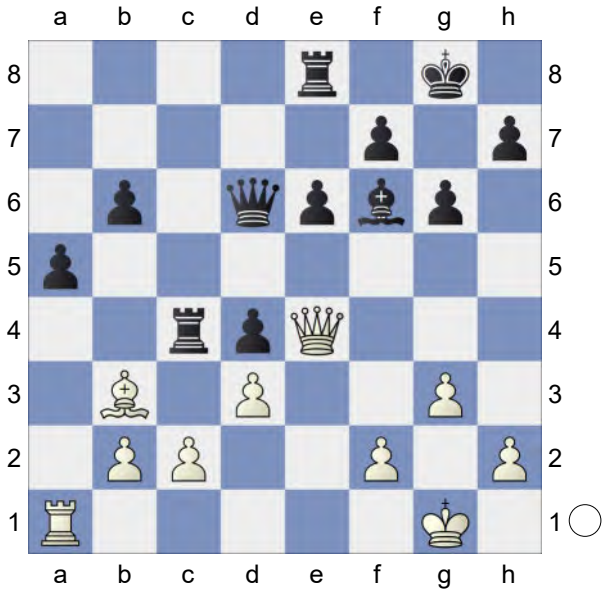
[25...Bb4-+ -1.63/21 26.Re2 Qc5]



26.Ra1 a5 27.Ra4 Bf6 28.g3 Qd6 29.Rea1 Rc5 30.Rc4 -1.84/22

[30.Qb7∓ -1.48/19]

30...Rxc4-+

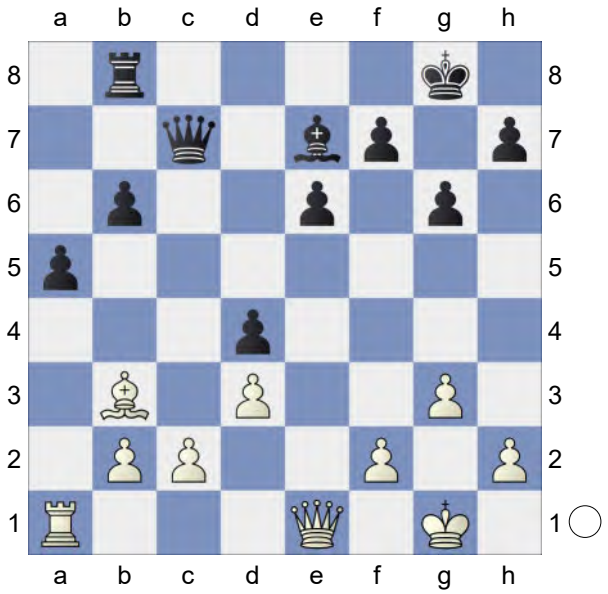


31.Bxc4 Rb8 32.Bb3 Qc7 33.Qe1 Be7 34.Qe4 Bf6? 0.01/21

[Better is 34...b5-+ -2.04/23 White must now prevent ...a4. 35.Re1 *(35.Qxd4? a4-+)* 35...Bf8]

35.Qe1!= Be7? 0.01/19

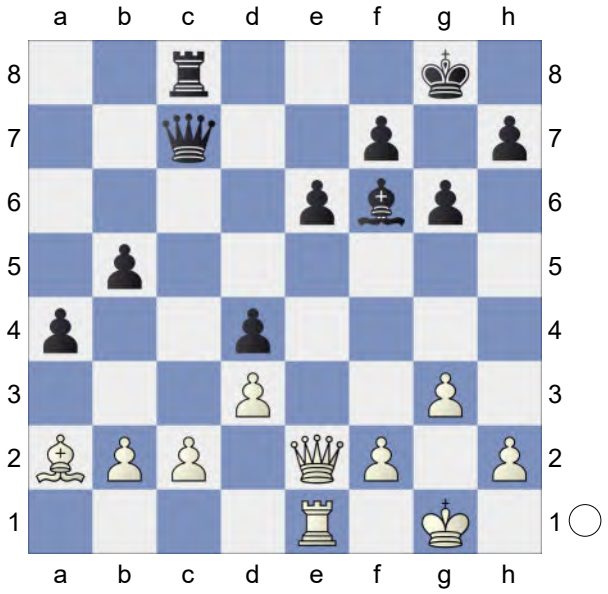
[35...Kg7-+ -1.82/20 And now ...Rd8 would win. 36.Ra4 Ra8]



36.Qe4 b5 37.Rc1 a4 38.Ba2 Bg5 39.Re1 Bf6

[39...Qxc2 40.Qe5 Rf8 41.Qxb5∓ *(41.Qxg5? Qxb2 42.Bb1 b4∓)*]

40.Qe2 Rc8

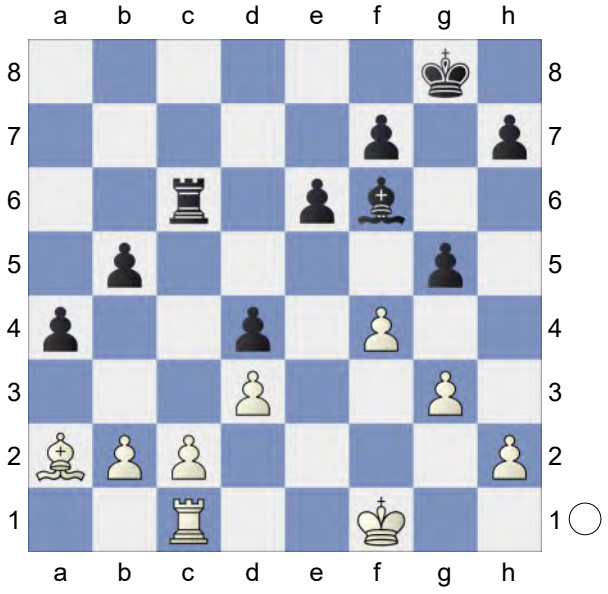


41.Rc1 Bg5 42.f4 Bf6 43.Qe4 -3.85/20

[⌓43.h4 -2.58/19]

43...Qc6 44.Qxc6 Rxc6-+

Endgame KRB-KRB **45.Kf1 g5**

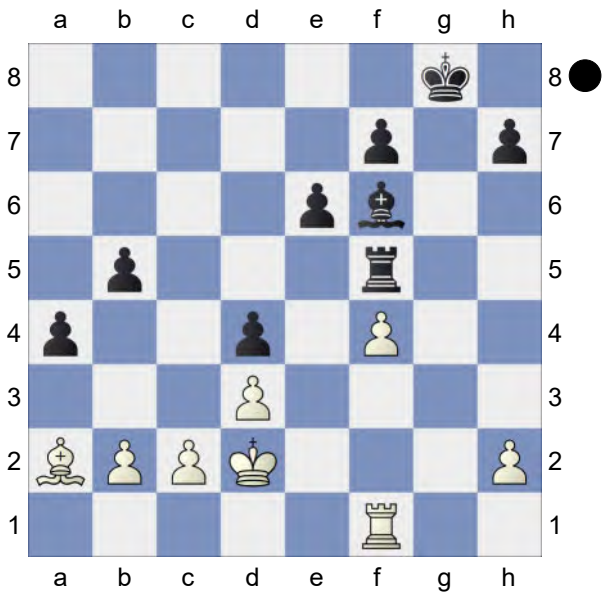


46.Ke2 Rc5 47.Kd2? -4.25/23

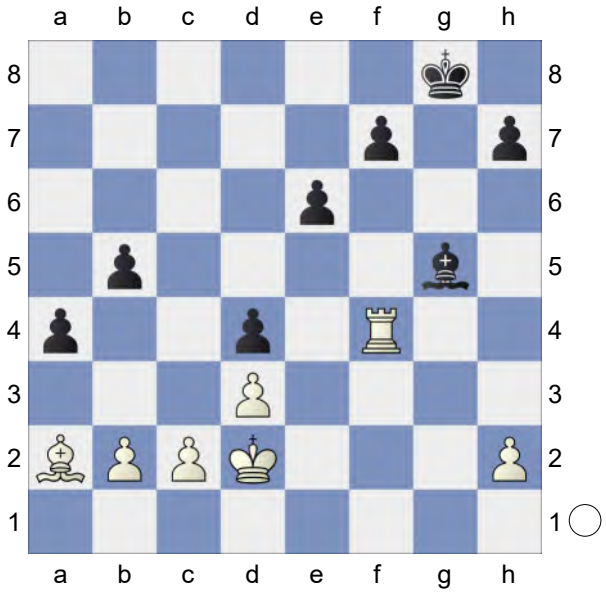
[47.Kf2 -2.62/21 was called for.]

47...gxf4 48.gxf4 Rf5 49.Rf1

(Diagram)



Rxf4!! 50.Rxf4 Bg5

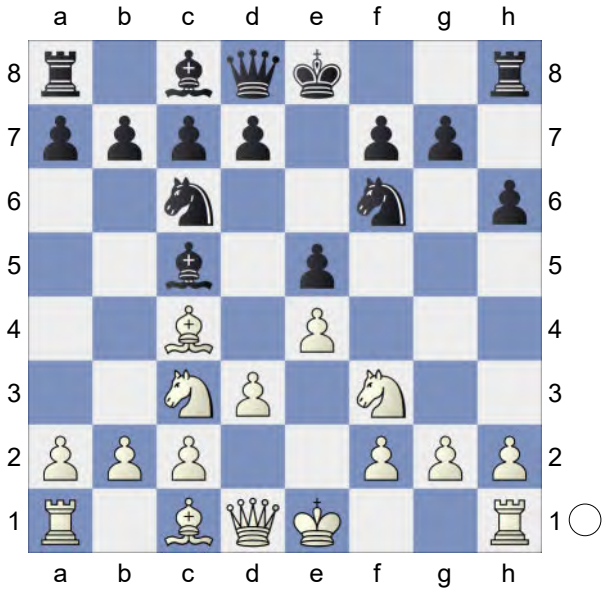


Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) / Black=0.22 (precise)

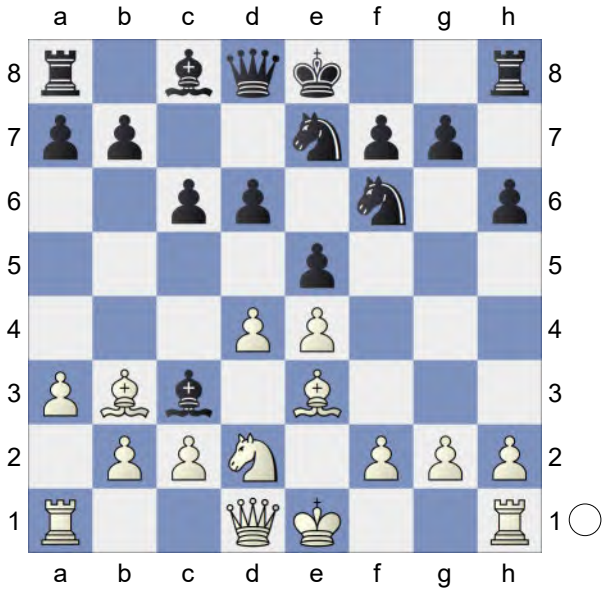
0-1

46 **C50**
□ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
■ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
Tata Steel Challengers (7.4) 25.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

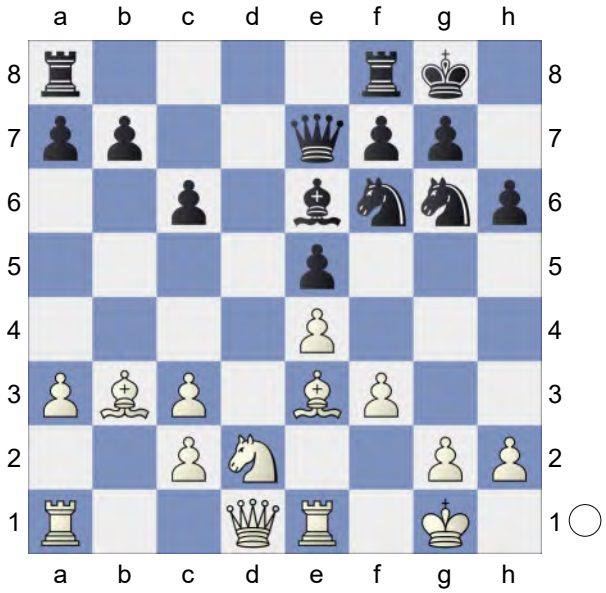
C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Nc3 h6**



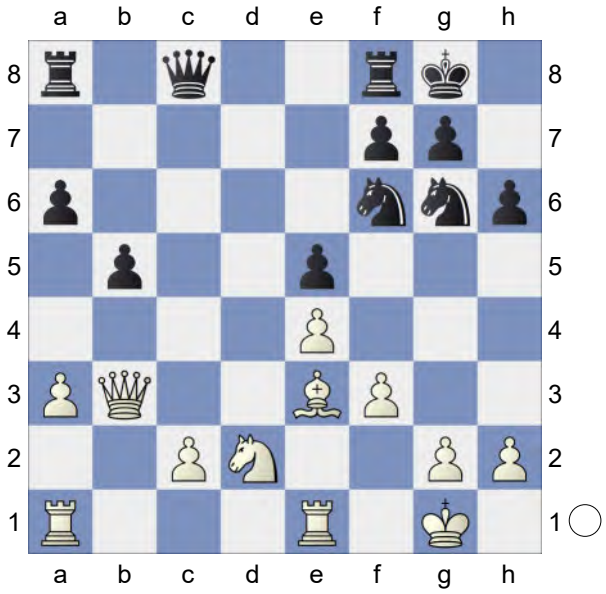
6.Be3
[6.Nd5 d6 7.c3 a6 8.b4 Ba7 9.Be3 Be6 10.0-0 Bxd5 11.Bxd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Ne7 13.Bxa7 Rxa7 14.c4 0-0 15.Re1 f5 16.Qd2 Ra8 17.Qe3 Qd7 18.a4 Rae8 19.b5 a5 20.Nd2 b6 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 a6 (2245)-Chapter 1 (B311) (2370) corr 2014 CBM 91-C47 [Dragan Solak] ½-½ (36)]
6...Bb4N
[6...Bxe3 7.fxe3 d6 8.Nd5 *(8.0-0 Na5 9.Bb3 Nxb3 10.axb3 c6 11.d4 0-0 12.Qd3 Qe7 13.Rad1 Bg4 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Rxf3 d5 16.dxe5 Nd7 17.Qd4 dxe4 18.Rf5 g6 19.Rf2 Nxe5 20.Qxe4 f5 21.Qf4 g5 22.Qg3 Rad8* Priyanka,N (2148)-2...d6 3 Bb5+ Nc6/ 2...Nc6 (1873) SFN-3284 2023 Steinitz/Blackburne [John Watson] 1-0 (48) *)* 8...Nxd5 9.Bxd5 Ne7 10.Bb3 Ng6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rf2 Be6 Chess Informant ECO Survey 2006]
[6...Bb6 7.Nd5 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bb3 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 c6 12.Bb3 Nxb3 13.axb3 Bc7 #1 B5) Italian – 4.d3 h6 5. Nc3-Italian – 4. d3 h6 5.Nc3]
7.Nd2 Ne7 8.Bb3 c6 The position is equal. **9.d4 d6 10.a3 Bxc3**



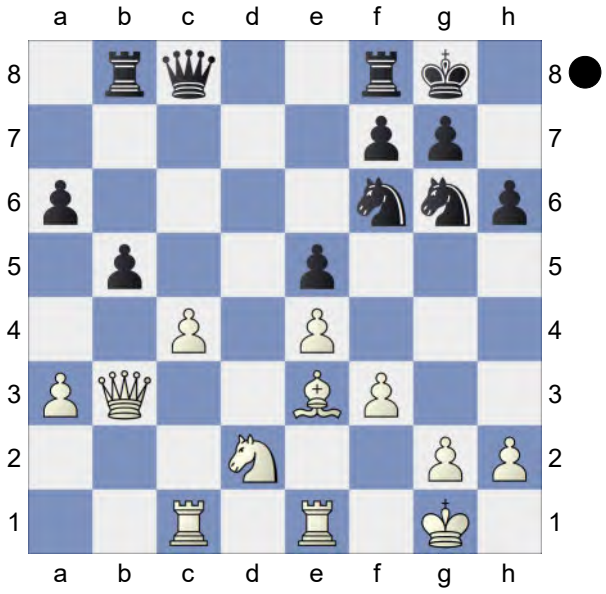
11.bxc3 0-0 12.0-0 Ng6 13.f3 Qe7 14.Re1 Be6 15.dxe5 dxe5



16.Bxe6 Qxe6 17.Qb1 b5 18.Qb3 Qc8 19.c4 a6 20.cxb5 cxb5

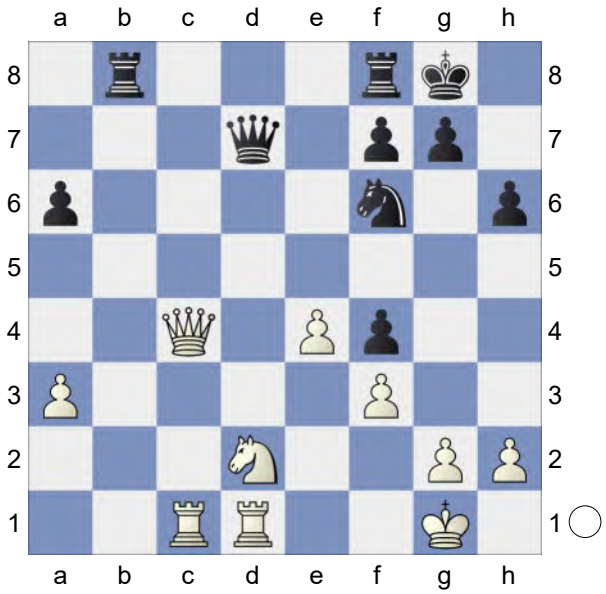


21.c4 Rb8 22.Rac1

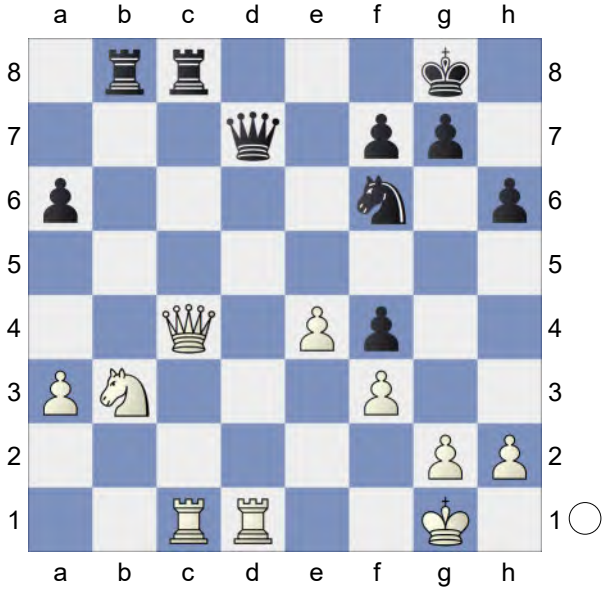


aiming for cxb5. **22...Qd7 23.Red1 Nf4 24.Bxf4 bxc4 25.Qxc4 exf4**

(Diagram)

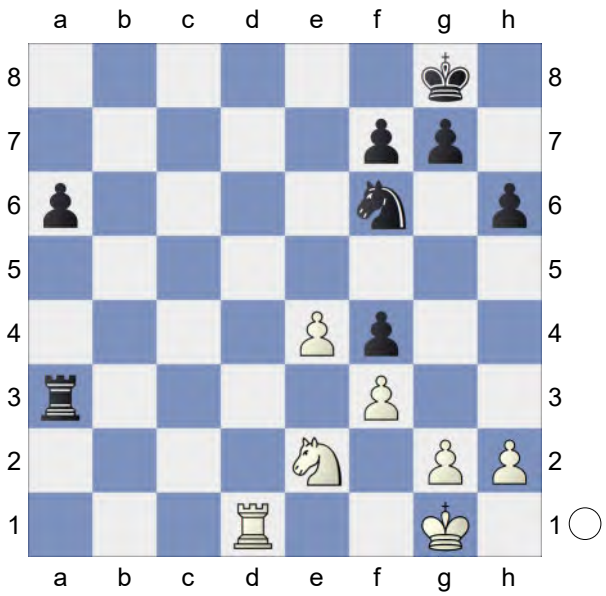


26.Nb3 Rfc8



27.Qxc8+! Qxc8 28.Rxc8+ Rxc8=
Endgame KRN-KRN **29.Nd4 Rc3 30.Ne2 Rxa3**

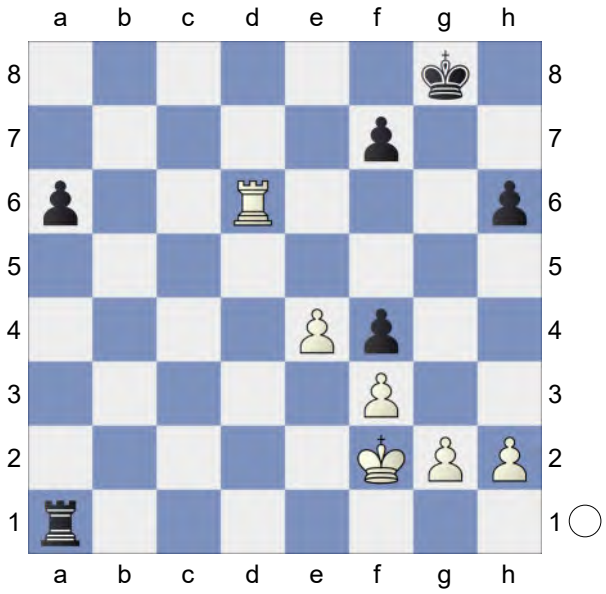
(Diagram)



31.Nxf4 Strongly threatening Rd8+. **31...g5 32.Ne2 Nh5 33.Rd6 Nf4** 0.50/27

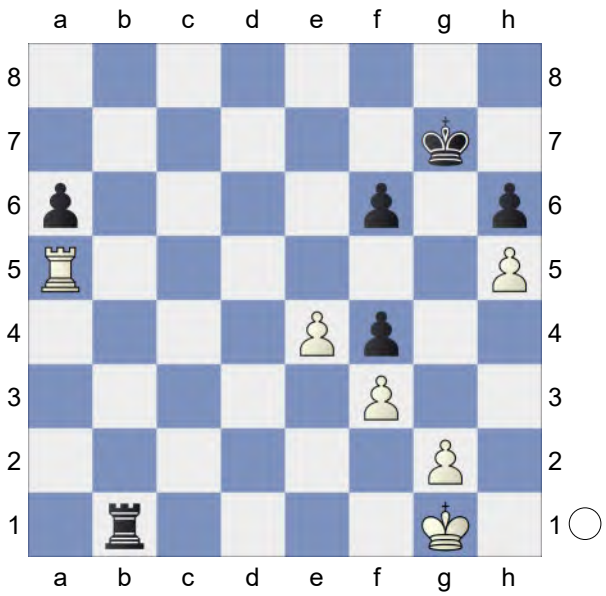
[33...Kh7= 0.14/20]

34.Nxf4± KRN-KR. White is slightly better. **34...Ra1+ 35.Kf2 gxf4**

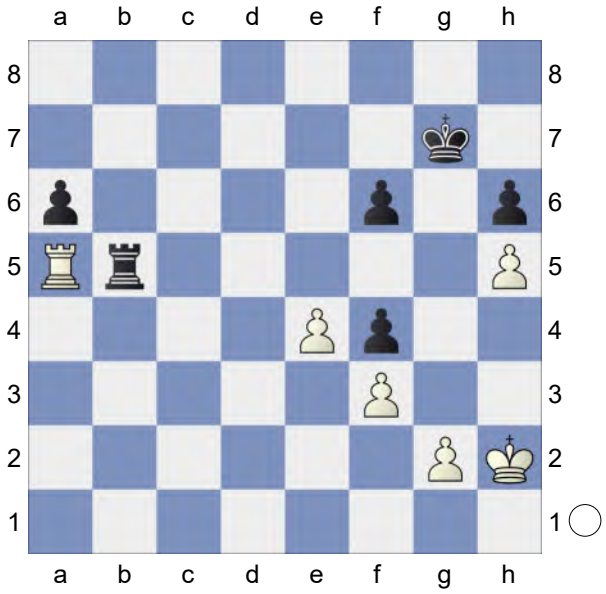


KR-KR **36.h4 Kg7 37.Rd5 Rb1 38.Ra5! Rb6 39.Kg1 f6 40.h5 Rb1+**

(Diagram)



41.Kh2 Rb5

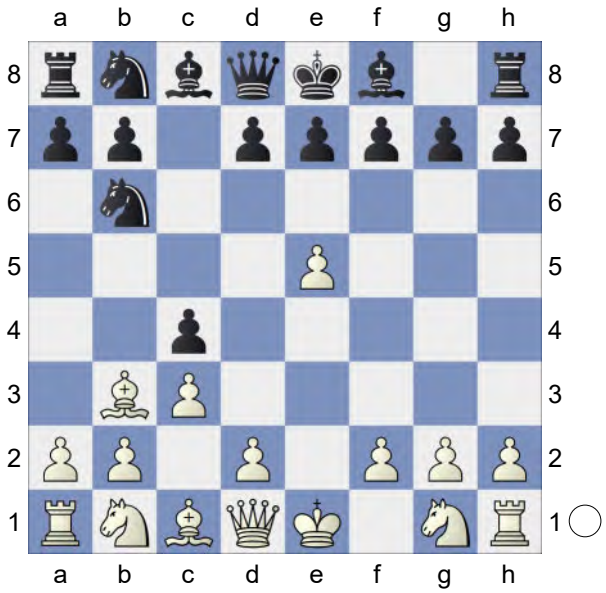


Weighted Error Value: White=0. 04 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

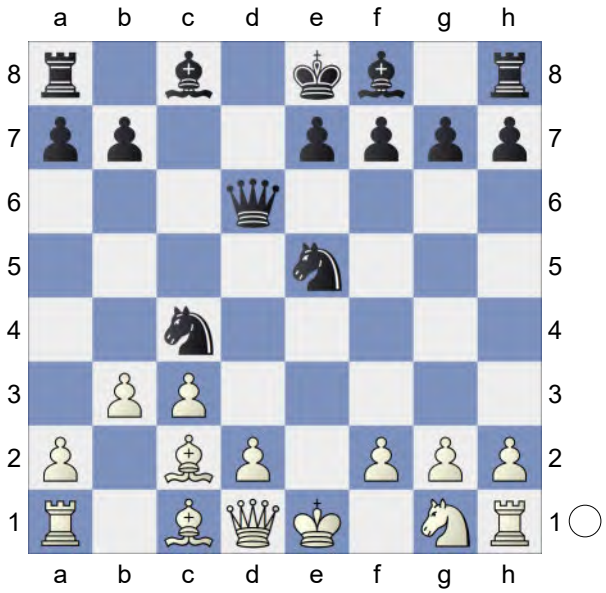
½-½

47 **B22**
□ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
■ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
Tata Steel Challengers (7.5) 25.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

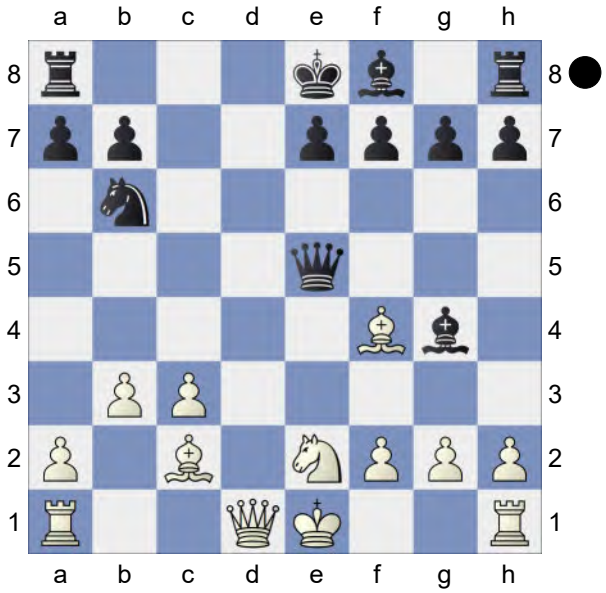
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3 **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 c4**



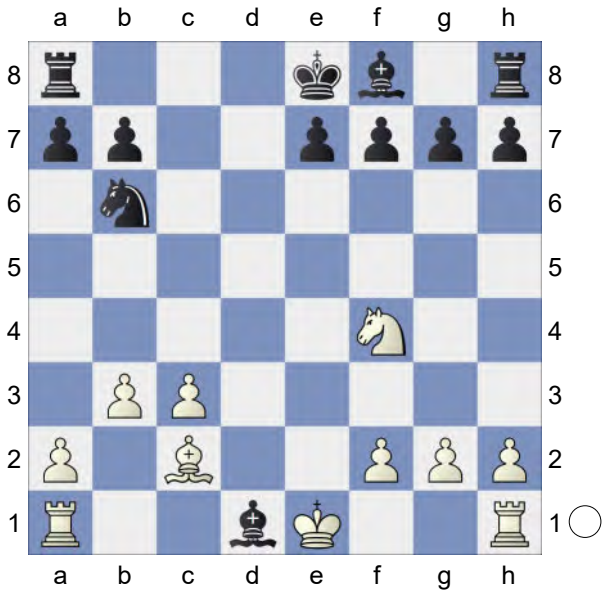
6.Bc2 d5
[6...Nc6 7.Nf3 Qc7 8.Qe2 g5 9.h3 Bg7 10.0-0 Nxe5 11.Nxg5 d5 12.a4 Bd7 13.a5 Nc8 14.Nf3 Ng6 15.d4 cxd3 16.Bxd3 e5 17.a6 Nce7 18.axb7 Qxb7 19.Ba6 Qc7 20.Na3 0-0 21.Nb5 Dauvergne,D (2700)-6.Nb3 Bb4 7.Bg5 (2668) Linz 2005 IZT [CPQC April 1875] 0-1 (53)]
7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Na3
[8.Nf3 Qe6+ 9.Kf1 Nc6 10.d4 cxd3 11.Qxd3 Bd7 12.Bf4 f6 13.a4 Rc8 14.Nbd2 Nd5 15.Bg3 Ndb4 16.Qe4 Nxc2 17.Qxc2 Nb4 18.Qe4 Qxe4 19.Nxe4 Nd3 20.Ke2 Nxb2 21.Rhb1 Nc4 22.Ned2 Nxd2 Kracht,R (2177)-Kocak,E (2173) Bad Wildungen 2024 0-1 (40)]
8...Nc6N
[8...g6 9.Qe2 Be6 10.b3 cxb3 11.axb3 Bg7 12.Nf3 0-0 13.0-0 Nc6 14.d4 Bd5 15.Re1 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 e5 17.Nb5 Qd7 18.Ba3 Rfd8 19.Rad1 exd4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Nd5 22.Be4 Bf8 23.Bxf8 Reference Games-Kazoks,A [Mickey Mouse]]
9.b3 Ne5 10.Nxc4 Nbxc4



11.d4 Nb6
[But not 11...Bg4 12.f3 Bd7 13.Ne2±]
12.dxe5 Qxe5+ 13.Ne2 Bg4 aiming for ...Bxe2. **14.Bf4**

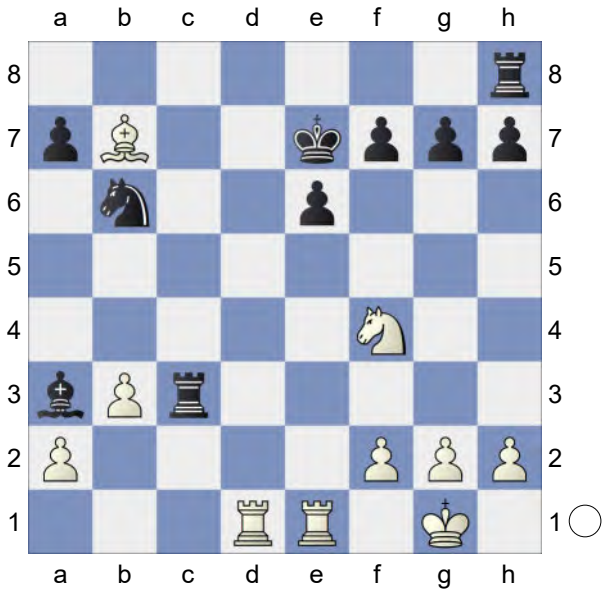


Qxf4 15.Nxf4 Bxd1



16.Rxd1 Rc8 17.Be4 Rxc3 18.Bxb7 e6 19.0-0 Ba3 20.Rfe1 Ke7

[20...g6 is more complex. 21.g3 Ke7 22.Re5 Bc5]

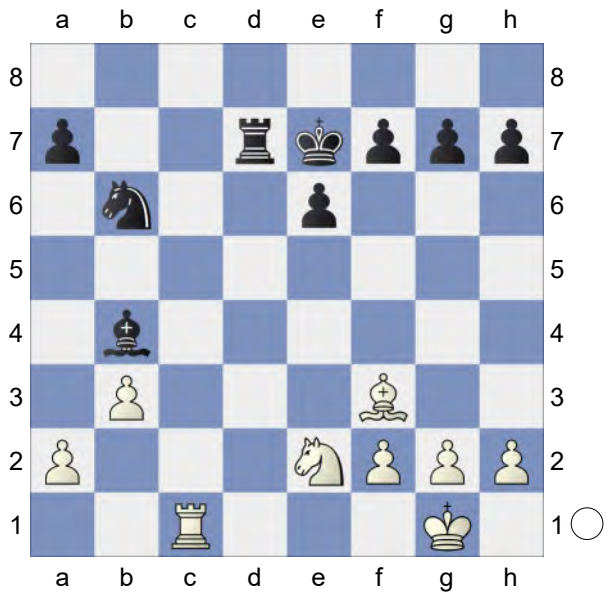


21.Ne2

[21.g3 looks sharper. g6 22.Re5 Bc5 23.Ne2]

21...Rc7 22.Bf3 Bb4 23.Rc1 Rd7 24.Red1 Rhd8 25.Rxd7+ Rxd7

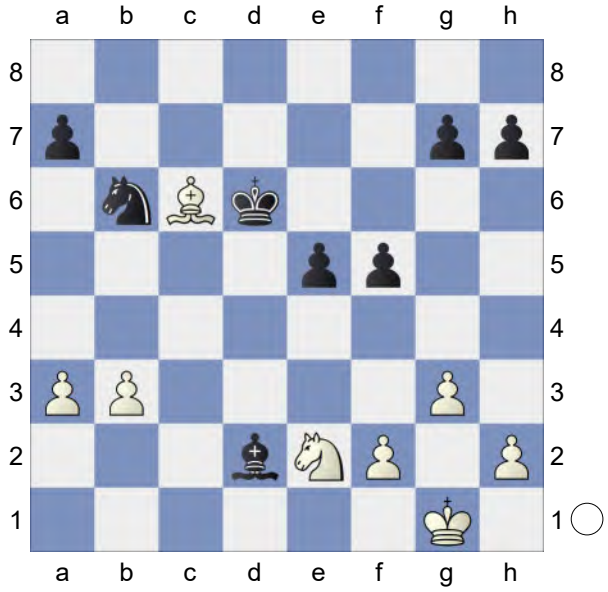
(Diagram)



26.g3 f5 27.Rc2 -0.51/23

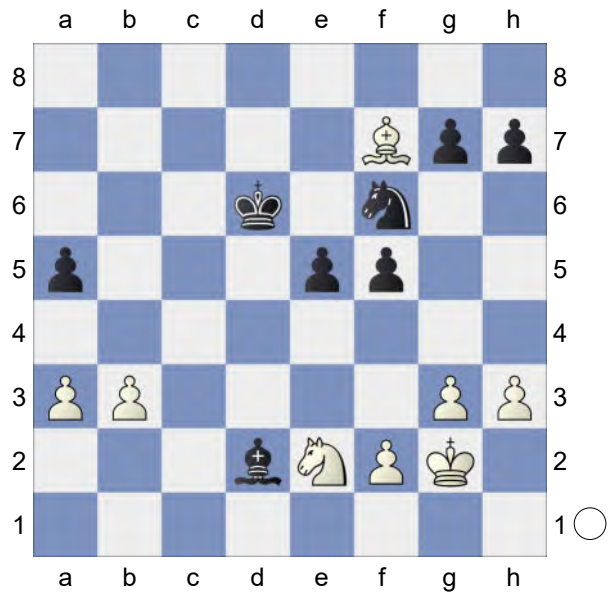
[27.g4= -0.20/22]

27...e5∓ White must now prevent ... Rd1+. **28.Bc6 Rd2 29.Rxd2 Bxd2** Endgame KBN-KBN **30.a3 Kd6**

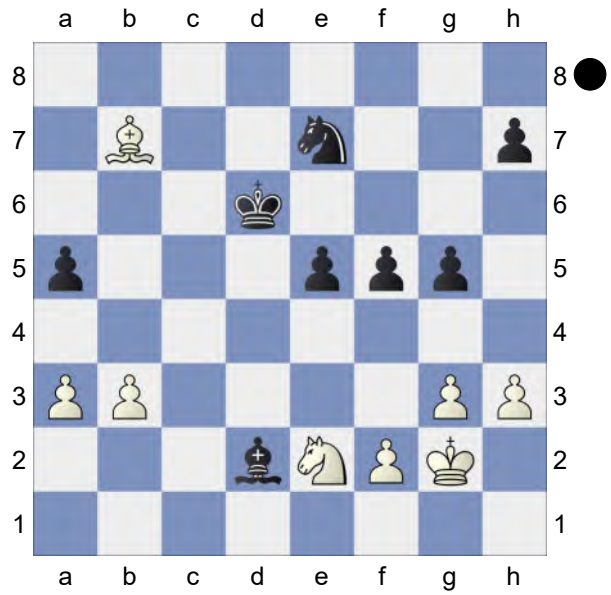


31.Bb5 Kc5 32.Be8 a5 33.Kg2 Nd5 34.h3 Nf6 35.Bf7 Kd6

(Diagram)

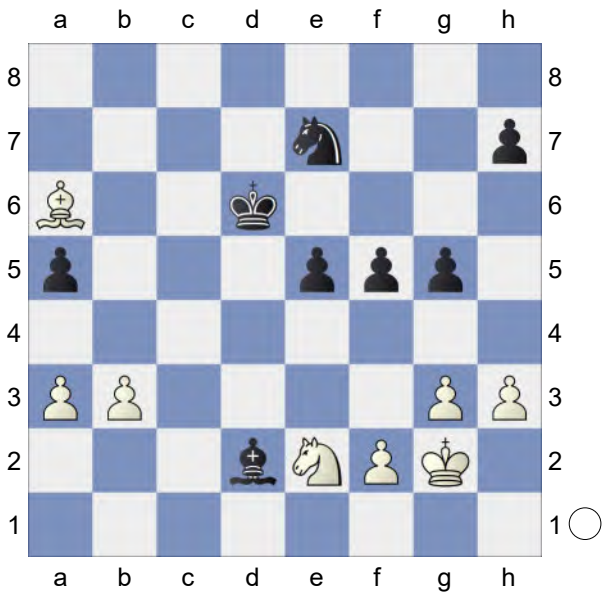


36.Bc4 g5 37.Ba6 Nd5 38.Bc8 Ne7 39.Bb7

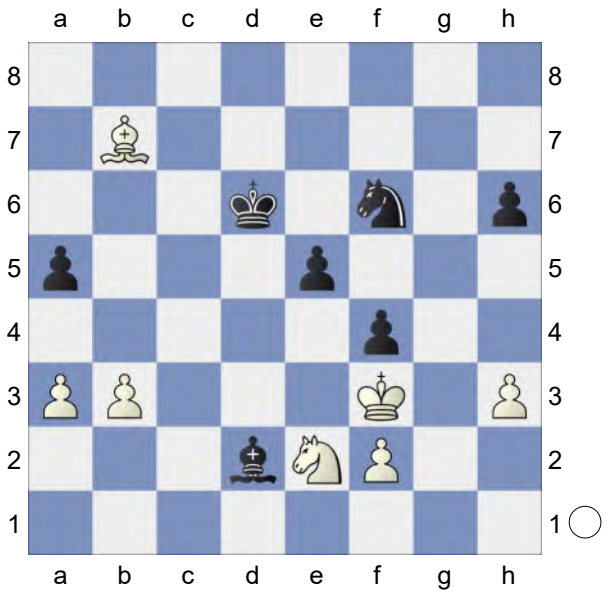


Kc7 -0.30/23
[39...h5!∓ -0.97/25]
40.Ba6 Kd6 -0.01/24
[40...h5∓ -0.51/24]

(Diagram)

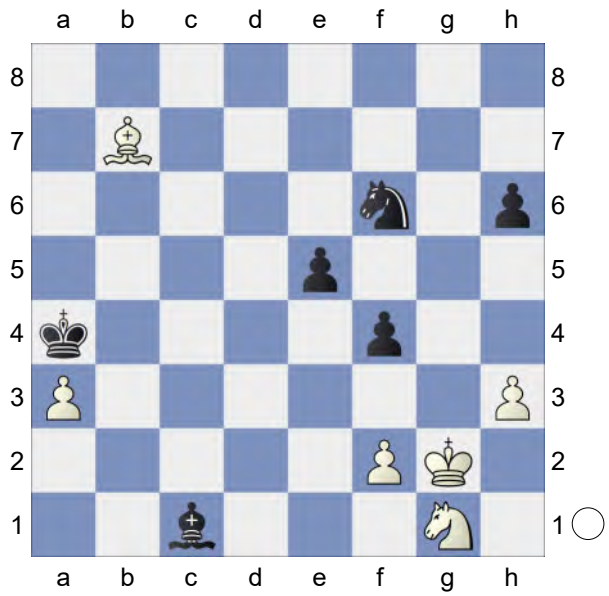


41.Bb7!= Nd5 0.01/23
[41...Kc5∓ -0.56/23]
42.Bc8! f4 43.Kf3 Nf6 44.gxf4 gxf4 45.Bb7 Inhibits e4+. **45...h6**

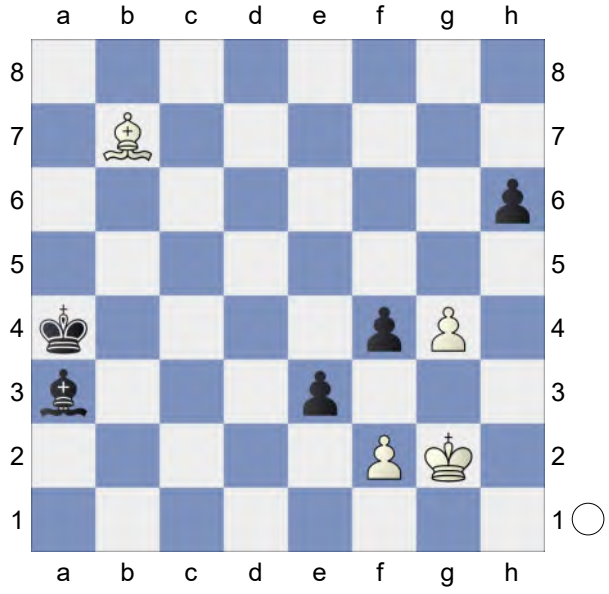


46.Ba8 Kc5 47.Bb7 Kb5 48.Kg2 -0.59/23
[48.Be4= -0.19/27]
48...a4!∓ 49.bxa4+ Kxa4 50.Ng1 Bc1 -0.07/26
[50...Kxa3∓ -0.39/23 51.Nf3 Bc3]

(Diagram)



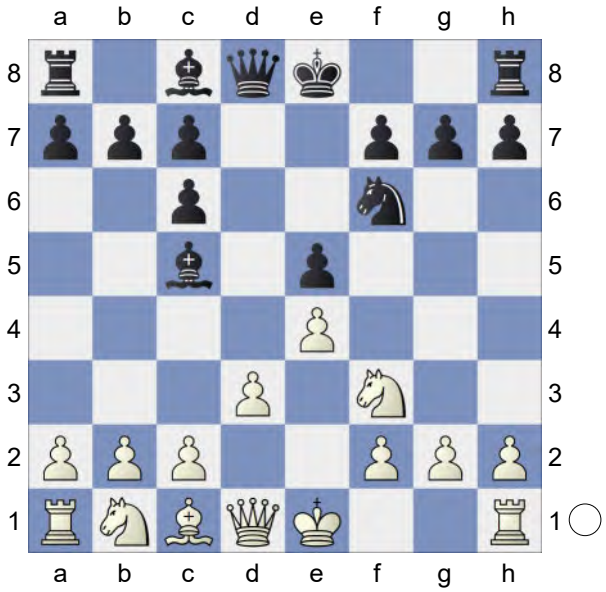
51.Nf3= The position is equal. **51...e4**
[Don't take 51...Bxa3 52.Nxe5 Nh7 53.h4±]
52.Ne5 Bxa3 53.Ng4 Nxg4 54.hxg4 e3



Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

48 **C65**
□ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
■ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
Tata Steel Challengers (7.6) 25.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6**



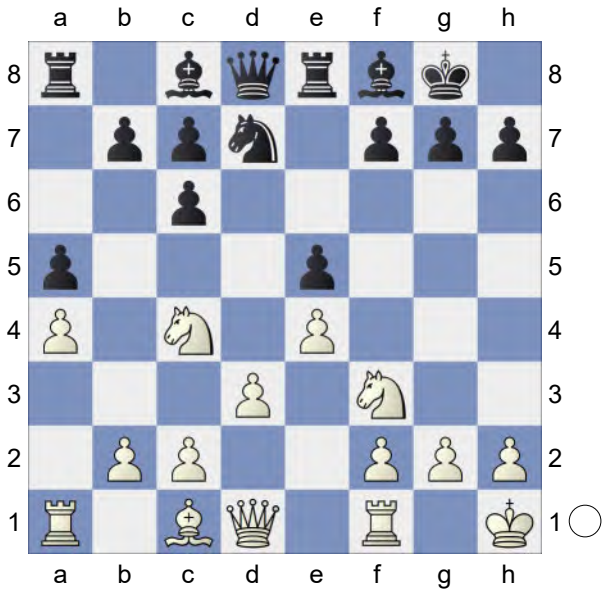
6.Nbd2 Nd7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nc4 The position is equal. **8...Re8 9.a4 a5 10.Kh1**

[10.Be3 Bxe3 11.fxe3 b6 12.Qe1 Ba6 13.Ncd2 Qe7 14.Nh4 g6 15.Qg3 Kh8 16.Rf2 Rg8 17.h3 Raf8 18.Raf1 f6 19.Ndf3 Nc5 20.b3 Qg7 21.Nh2 Bc8 22.Ng4 Bxg4 23.hxg4 h6 24.Nf3 Qe7 Dragnev, V (2557)-Blohberger,F (2527) Linz 2024 1-0 (59)]

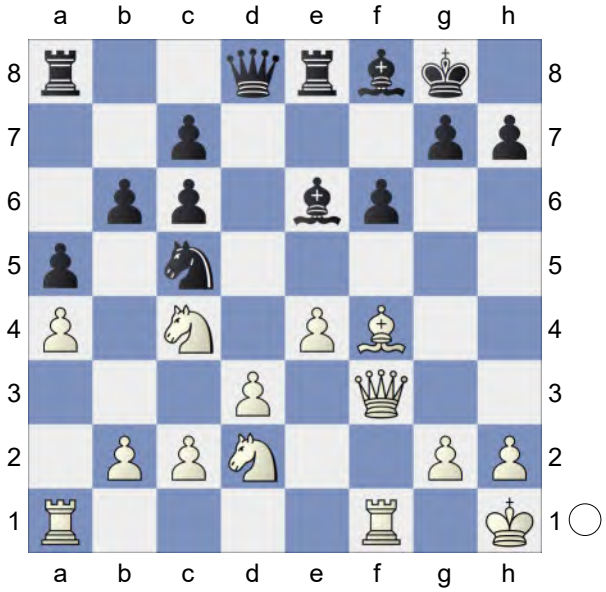
10...Bf8N

[10...b6 11.g3 Nf8 12.Ncxe5 f6 13.d4 Bd6 14.Nxc6 Qd7 15.d5 Rxe4 16.Nd2 Re8 17.Nc4 Ba6 18.b3 Bxc4 19.bxc4 Ng6 20.Nd4 Ne5 21.f4 c5 22.Nb5 Nf7 23.Qd3 Bf8 24.Bd2 Nd6 25.Nc3 Deslandes, P (2772)-10.Ba3 b6 11.ba5 Nh5_7469 (2786) Minsk 2013 CBM 116 Extra [FS 106] ½-½ (60)]

[10...f6 11.Be3 Bf8 12.Nfd2 Nc5 Lesson 18: Spanish,B-Spanish Berlin 4. d3 Bc5 5.]



11.Be3 b6 12.Nfd2 Nc5 13.f4 exf4 14.Bxf4 f6 15.Qf3 Be6

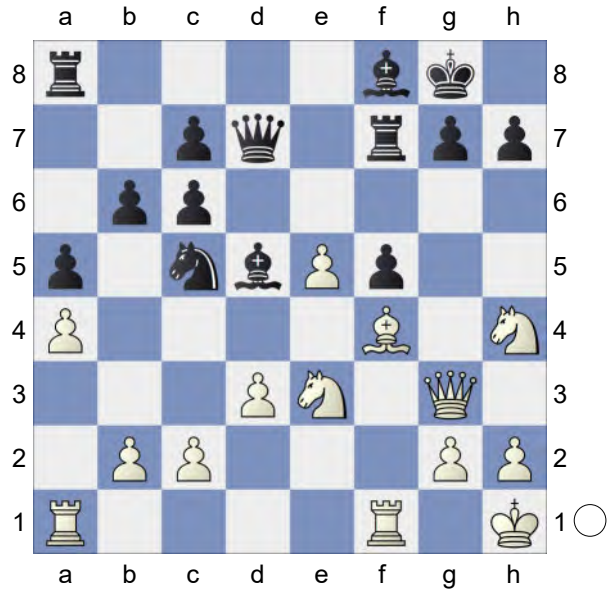


16.Ne3 Qd7 0.34/19

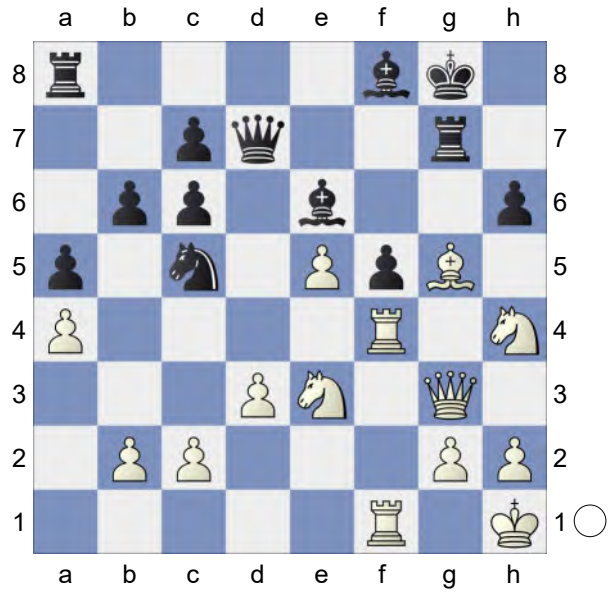
[16...b5= -0.01/19]

17.Qg3± Re7 18.e5 f5 19.Nf3 Bd5

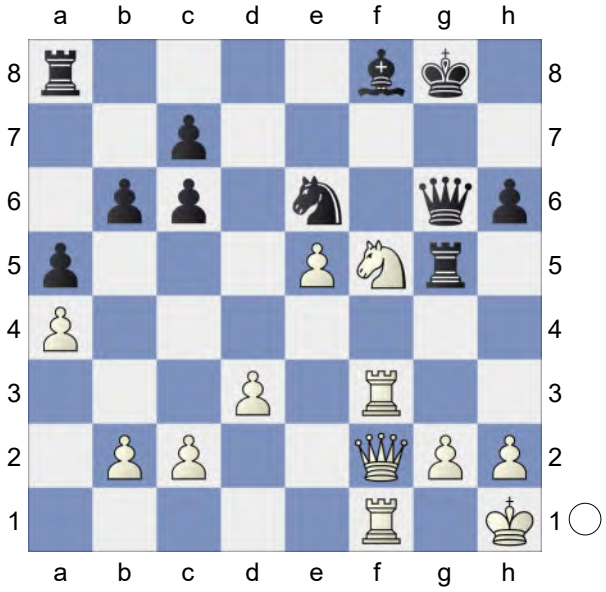
0.72/21
[19...Rae8= 0.13/17 remains equal.]
20.Nh4 Rf7!



21.Bg5 Be6 22.Rf4! g6 23.Bf6 Nhxf5 is the strong threat. **23...Rg7** 1.13/18 **24.Raf1 g5** 2.37/22
[24...Re8± 0.97/19]
25.Bxg5+- h6

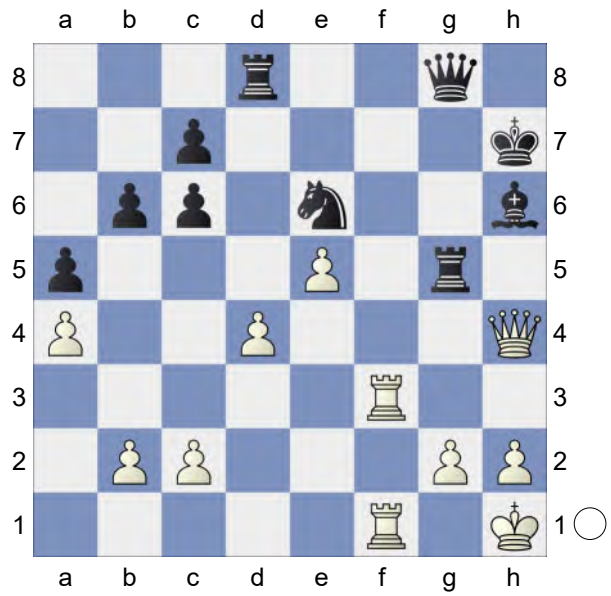


26.Nhxf5! 0.84/22 **Rxg5± 27.Qh4** 0.12/20
[27.Rg4± 0.59/22 Qd8 28.h4 Rxg4 29.Nxg4]
27...Bxf5= 28.Nxf5 Qh7 0.53/20
[28...Re8!= 0.05/21]
29.R4f3 White has compensation.
29...Qg6 30.Qf2 0.01/21
[30.d4± 0.36/21 Nxa4 31.Ne3]
30...Ne6
[30...Nxa4? 31.Nh4 Qe8 32.Qd4±]

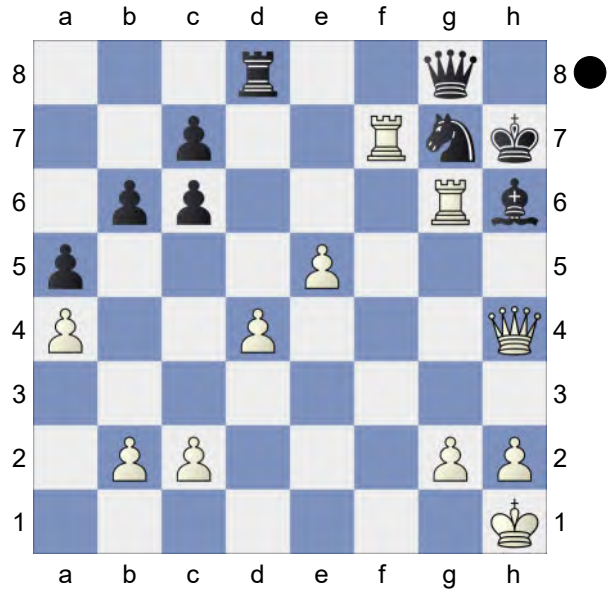


31.d4! Kh8 32.Nh4 -0.20/20
[⌓32.c3 0.24/21]
32...Qg8 0.51/19
[32...Qe4= -0.20/20]
33.Nf5 -0.01/20
[White should play 33.c3± 0.51/19]
33...Rd8 34.Qh4 Kh7 4.50/21
[34...Rxg2? 35.Nxh6 Bxh6 36.Qxh6+ Qh7 37.Qxh7+ Kxh7 38.Rh3+ Kg8 39.Kxg2+-]
[34...Rg6= -0.01/19 and Black stays safe.]
35.Nxh6+- Threatening mate with Nf7+.
35...Bxh6 8.98/23
[⌓35...Qg6 4.49/25]

(Diagram)



36.Rf7+ Ng7 37.R1f6 Rg6 38.Rxg6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.63

1-0

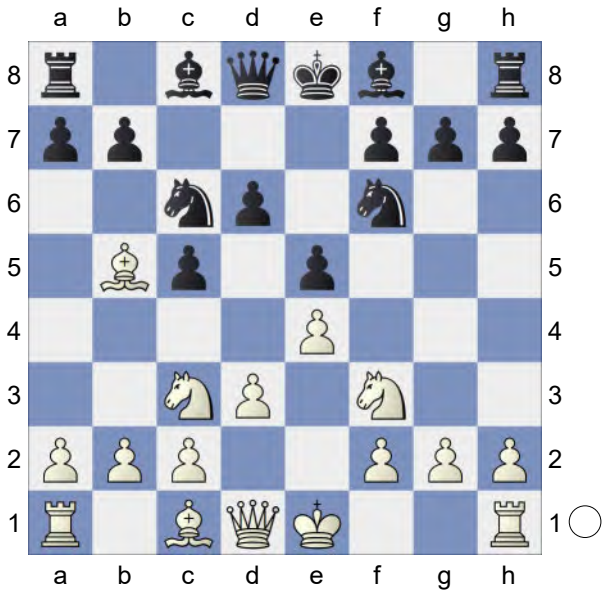
49 **B50**
□ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
■ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
Tata Steel Challengers (7.7) 25.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B51: Sicilian: Moscow Variation (3 Bb5+) without 3...Bd7 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bb5N**

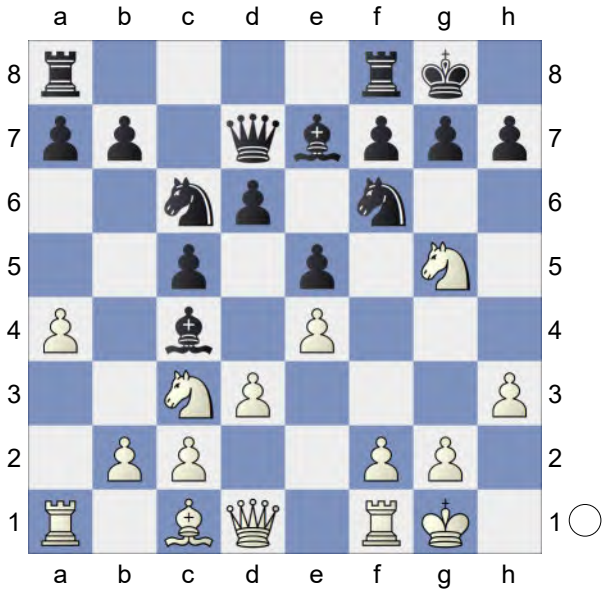
[4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d3 0-0 8.Bf4 *(8.Bg5 Rb8 9.a4 a6 10.Qd2 b5 11.axb5 axb5 12.Bh6 Bg4 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Nh4 b4 15.Nd1 Bxd1 16.Raxd1 e5 17.f4 exf4 18.gxf4 Nh5 19.Qe1 Nd4 20.Rd2 f5 21.c3 bxc3 22.bxc3 Ne6* Nedev,T (2575)-5.Bg2 Bb4 6.Nbd2 (2525) BUL 1998 Telechess CBM 89 [Elburg, Shaak'ringen331p185] ½-½ (43) *)* 8...Nd7 9.Re1 Rb8 10.a4 a6 11.Qd2 Re8 12.Be3 b5 13.axb5 axb5 14.d4 b4 15.Na4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Bb7 17.c3 Nde5 18.Qe2 bxc3 4.Nd4 Nf6 5.f3_35817 (2435)-4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bg5 c6_359 (2540) Leningrad 2022 Inf 70 [John Watson] 0-1 (44)]

4...e5 5.d3 Nf6

(Diagram)

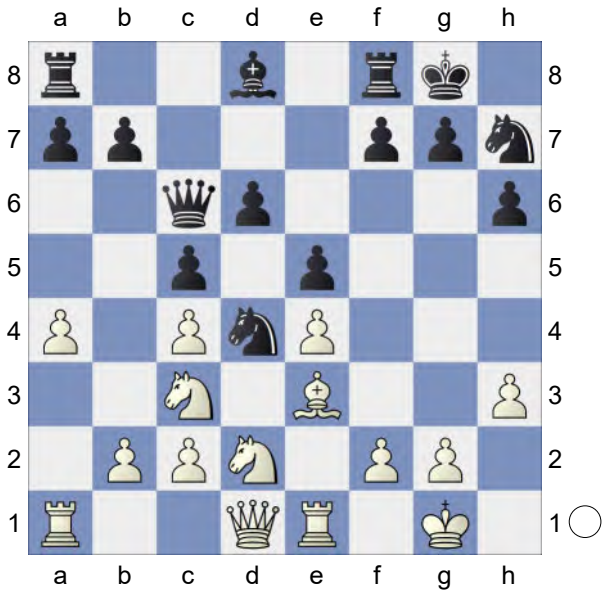


6.a4 Be7 7.h3 0-0 8.Bc4 Be6 9.Ng5 Qd7 10.0-0 Bxc4

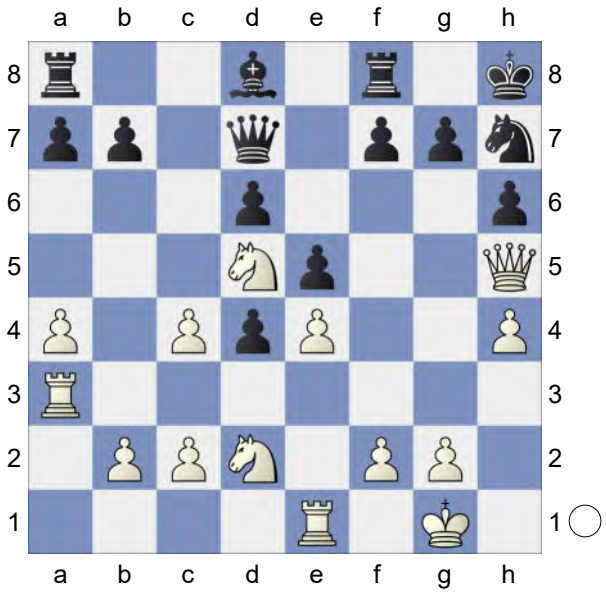


11.dxc4 h6 12.Nf3 Nd4 13.Be3 Qc6 14.Re1 Bd8 15.Nd2 Nh7

(Diagram)

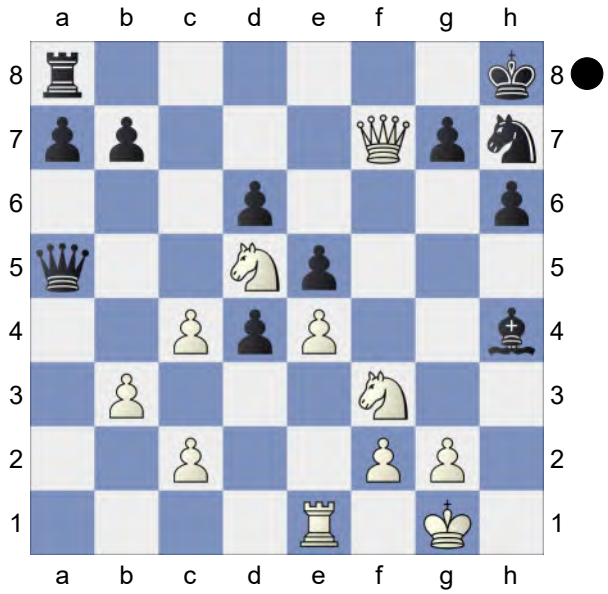


16.Nd5 Qd7 17.Ra3 Ne6 18.Qh5 0.42/20
[18.a5± 0.82/18]
18...Kh8 19.h4 0x0.0023119be9f4dp-1022s more active pieces. **19...Nd4 20.Bxd4 cxd4**

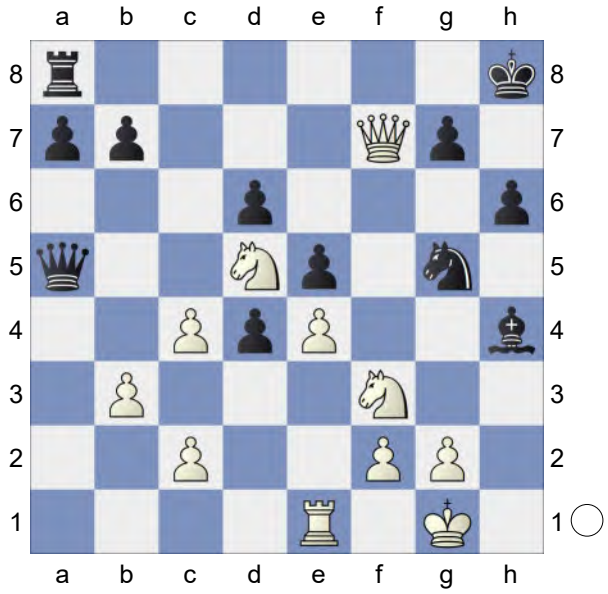


21.Rf3 -0.14/21
[⩲21.g3 0.21/19]
21...Qxa4= 22.Rxf7
[22.Rc1!?]
22...Rxf7 23.Qxf7 Bxh4 24.b3!
[Much weaker is 24.Qxb7 Rf8 25.Rf1 Qxc2∓]

24...Qa5 25.Nf3

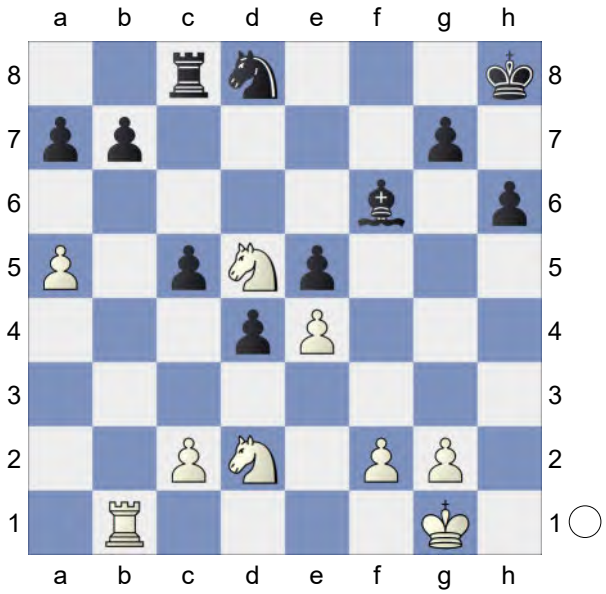


Ng5!

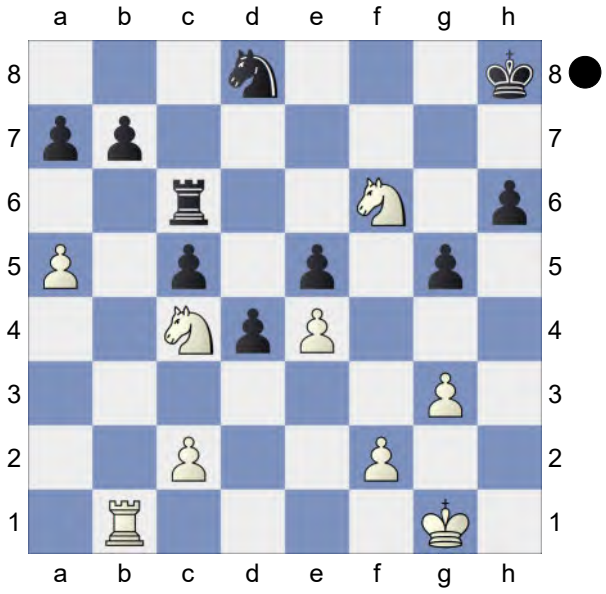


26.b4 Nxf7 27.bxa5 Bf6 28.Rb1 Nd8 29.c5 -0.88/20
[Better is 29.Rb4!∓ -0.34/21]
29...dxc5∓ 30.Nd2 Rc8 -0.50/22
[30...Kg8∓ -1.05/19]

(Diagram)

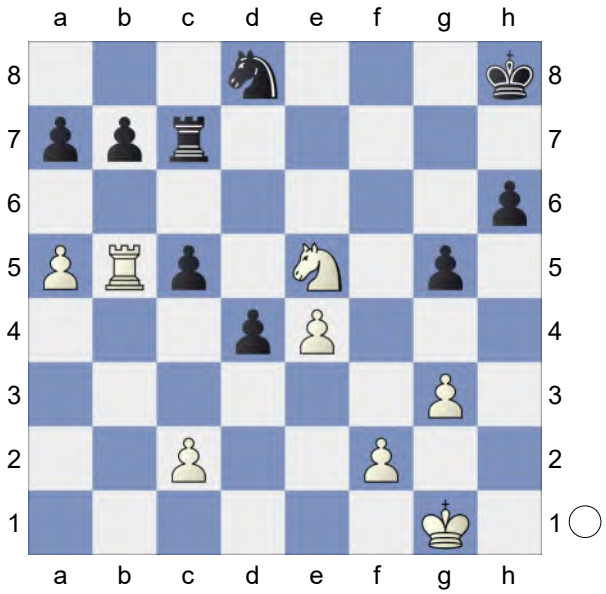


31.Nc4∓ Rc6 32.g3 g5 0.02/22
[32...Re6!∓ -0.54/21]
33.Nxf6=

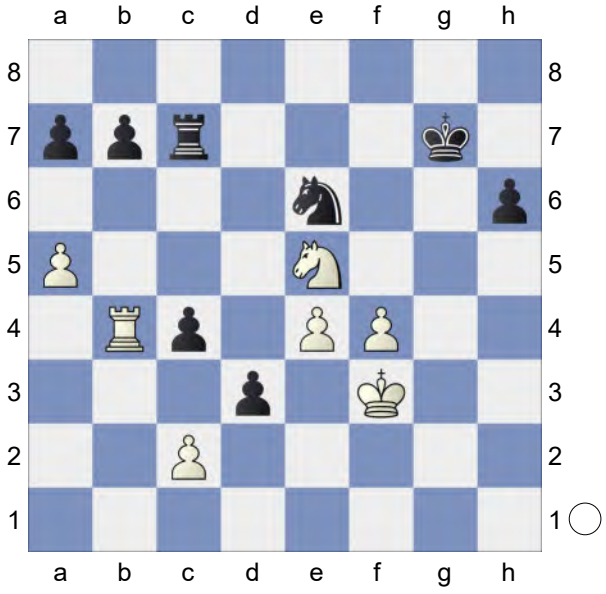


R e m o v e D e f e n d e r **33...Rxf6**
Endgame KRN-KRN **34.Rb5 Rc6**
[34...Rf3!?]
35.Nxe5 Rc7

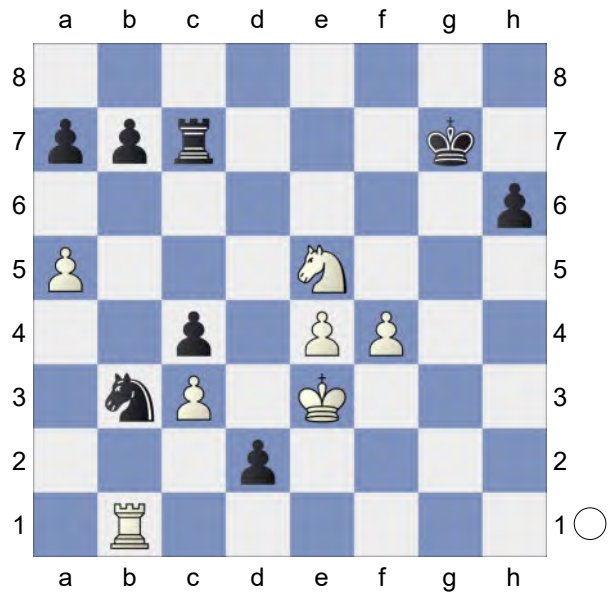
(Diagram)



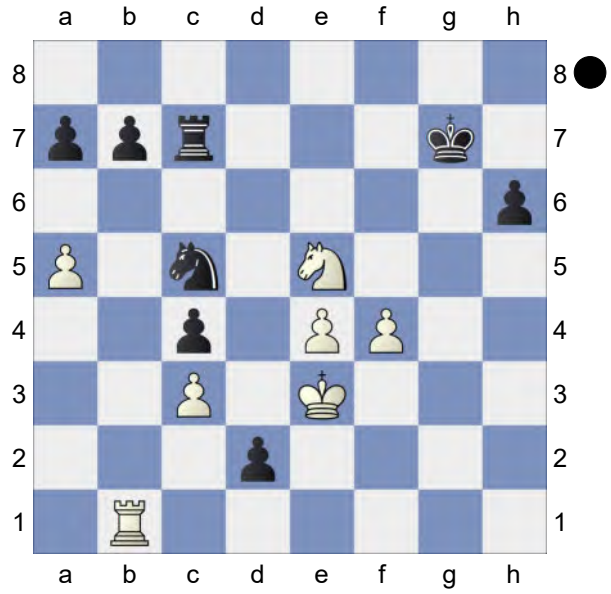
36.Kg2 Kg7 37.f4 gxf4 38.gxf4 Ne6 39.Kf3 White has compensation. **39...c4** 0.63/20
[39...Kf6= 0.01/19]
40.Rb4 -0.01/22
[40.Rd5± 0.63/20]
40...d3



The position is equal. **41.c3**
[Wrong is 41.cxd3? c3 42.Rb1 c2 43.Rg1+ Kf8 44.Ng6+ Ke8-+]
41...d2 42.Rb1 Threatens to win with Rd1. **42...Nc5! 43.Ke3 Nb3 44.Ke2 Nc5 45.Ke3 Nb3**



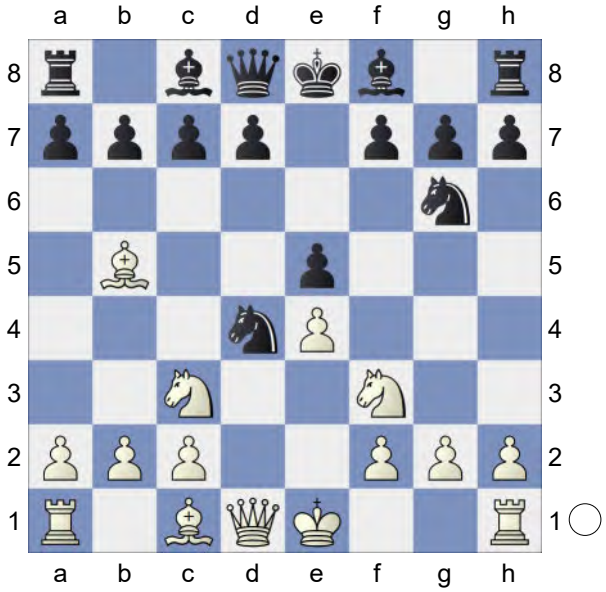
46.Ke2 Nc5 47.Ke3!



Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
½-½

50 **C60**
□ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
■ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
Tata Steel Challengers (8.1) 26.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

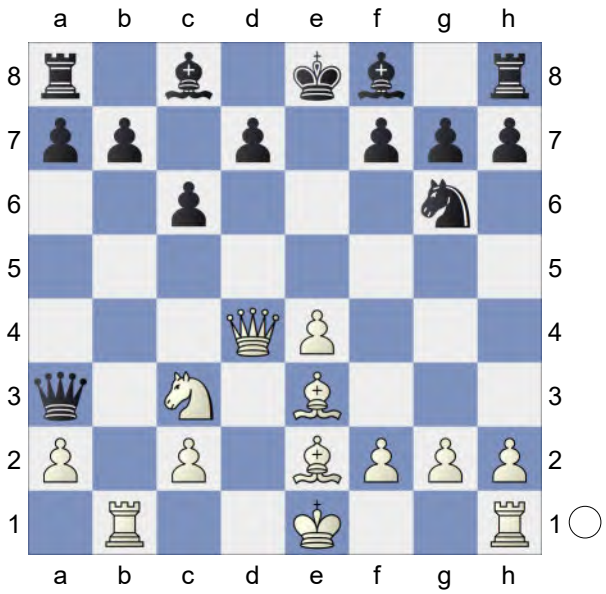
[%eCp 9,80,34,31,29,26,23,36,33,27,23, 19,11,23,11,11,8,11,16,12,7,12,1,18,14, 16,10,17,9,9,-10,-8,-49,-59,-59,-85,-55,-39,-72,-63,-97,-74,-87,-116,-93,-112, -100,-71,-98,-12,-100,-36,-22,-1,-76,-6, -15,-20,-8,82,-1,57,79,58,1,28,15,52,1, 1, -1,14,-1,1] C60: Ruy Lopez: Unusual Black 3rd moves and 3...g6 In this course we will have an in-depth look at the Cozio Defence, named after Carlo Cozio, Count of Montiglio and Salabue îîStartBracketîîItaly, 1715-1780îîEndBracketîî. After publishing his manuscript Il giuoco degli scacchi in 1766, where he explained the ideas behind 3...Nge7, this line received his name. It all starts with the following moves: **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.Nc3 Ng6 5.d4 Nxd4**



6.Nxd4 exd4 7.Qxd4 c6 8.Be2 White is slightly better. **8...Qb6 9.Be3N**

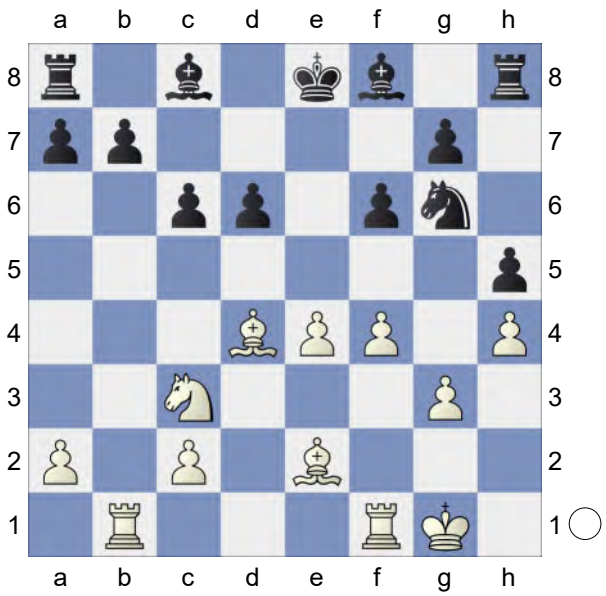
[9.Qd3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.a4 d6 12.Be3 *(12.a5 Qc7 13.Be3 Bd7 14.f4 Rfe8 15.Bd4 b5 16.axb6 axb6 17.Rad1 d5 18.Qd2 dxe4 19.f5 Nh4 20.f6 Bd6 21.Kh1 Nf5 22.Bg1 Rad8 23.g4 e3 24.Qd3 Nd4 25.Qxd4 c5 26.Qc4 Bc6+* Chapter An Intriguing Mixt-Cozio Defence 4.Nc3 Ng6 5.d4 (31) *)* 12...Qc7 13.f4 Bd7 14.Rad1 Rad8 15.Bd4 Rfe8 16.Qg3 Bh4 17.Qf3 Be7 18.Qg3 Bf8 19.h4 c5 20.Nd5 Qc8 21.Bc3 Rxe4 22.Bd3 Bf5 23.Bxe4 Bxe4 2.d3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 î€ (2590)-Pirk,H (2670) San Luis 2023 15 1... c5: model games [John Watson] 1-0]

9...Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qa3
[10...Qxc2? 11.Rb3 b6 12.Bd1+-]

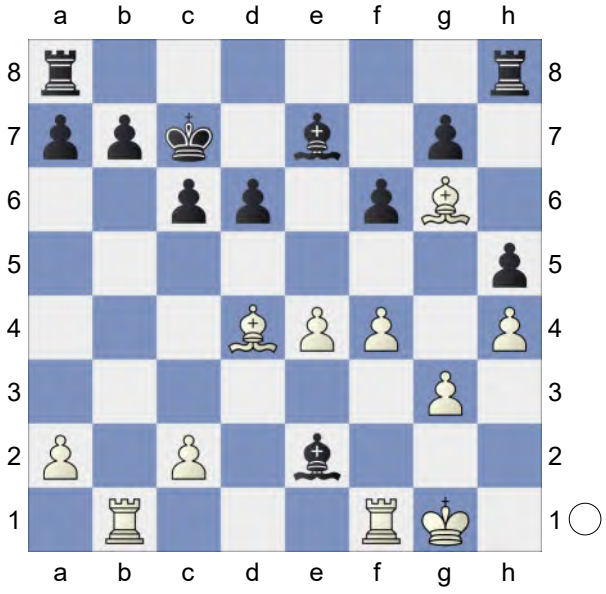


11.0-0 Qd6 Inhibits e5. **12.f4 Qxd4 13.Bxd4 d6 14.h4** White has compensation. **14...h5! 15.g3 f6**

(Diagram)

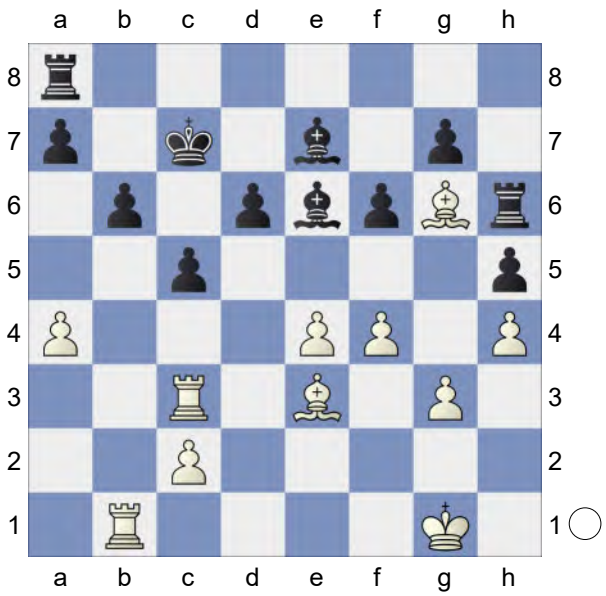


16.Bd3 Kd8 17.Bc4 Be7 18.Ne2 Kc7 19.Bf7 Bg4 20.Bxg6 -0.49/22
[20.Rfe1= -0.08/19 might be stronger. Nf8 21.Bc3]
20...Bxe2∓

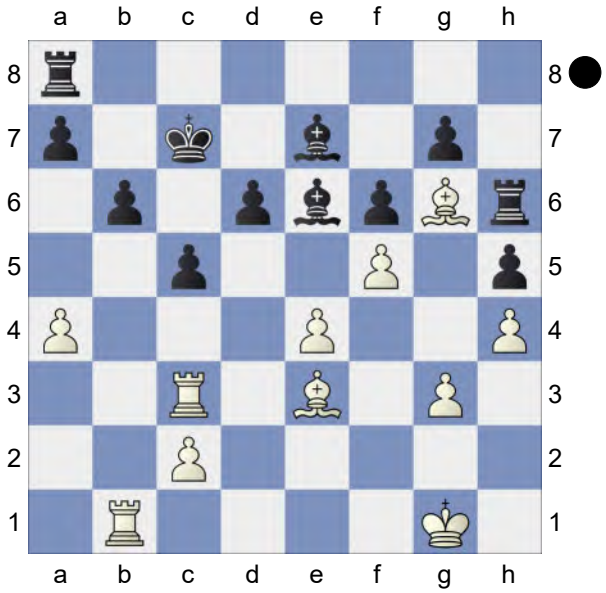


21.Rfe1 Bc4 22.a4 b6
[22...Rh6 is interesting. 23.Bf5 c5 24.Bc3 b6]
23.Re3 -0.72/19
[23.Kh2∓ -0.39/18]
23...c5∓ 24.Rc3 -0.97/21 **Be6 25.Be3 Rh6**

(Diagram)

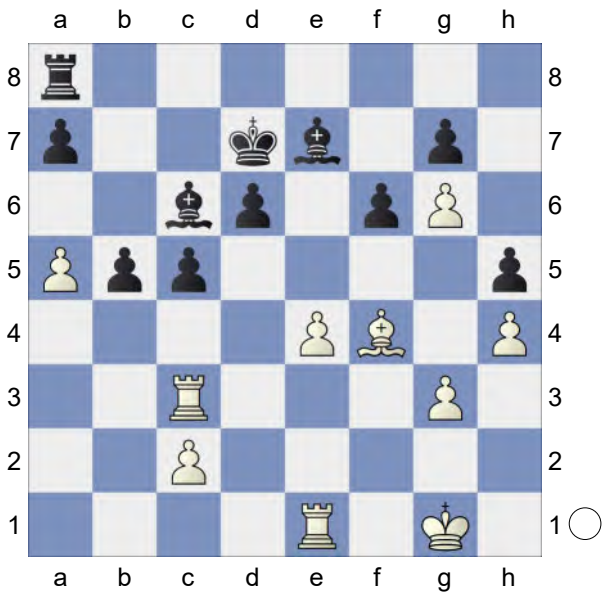


26.f5

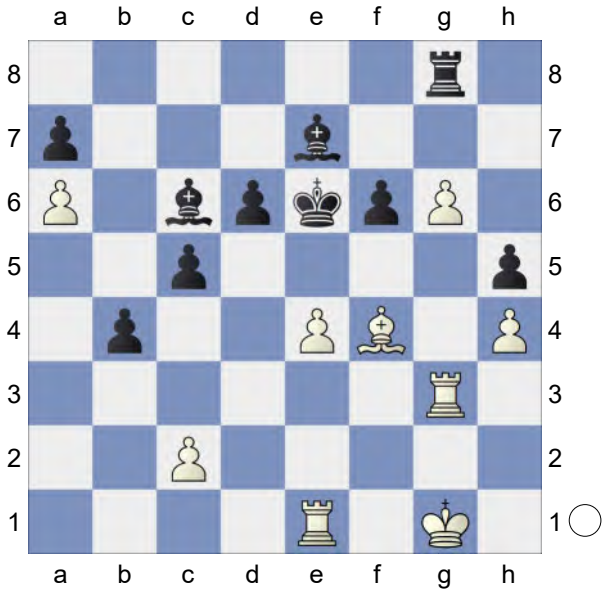


Rxg6 27.fxg6 Bd7 28.a5 Bc6 -0.12/19
[28...Be8∓ -0.98/20]
29.Re1 -1.00/20
[29.Bf4!= -0.12/19]
29...b5 -0.36/19
[Much weaker is 29...bxa5?! 30.Bf4 Kd7 31.Kf2∓]
[29...Be8∓ -1.00/20]
30.Bf4∓ Strongly threatening Rxc5.
30...Kd7

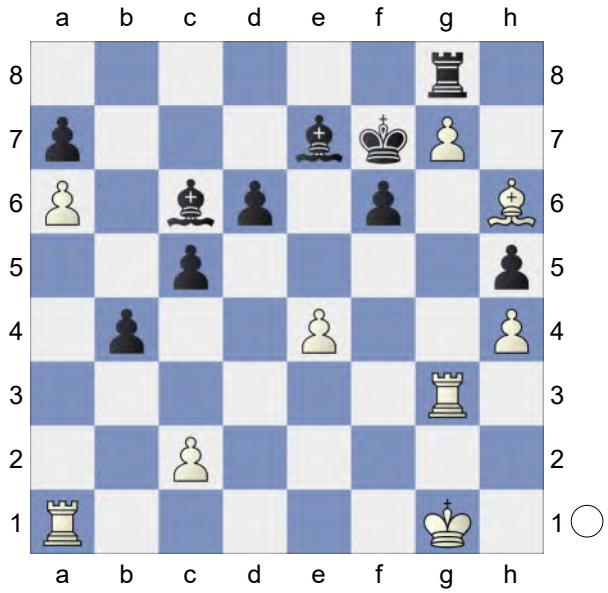
(Diagram)



31.g4 -0.76/22
[31.Kf2= -0.01/21 keeps the balance.]
31...Rh8 -0.06/20
[31...hxg4∓ -0.76/22 Hoping for ... Rh8. 32.h5 Ke6]
32.g5!= Ke6 33.gxf6 gxf6 0.82/22
[33...Bxf6= -0.08/24 34.e5 Bxh4]
34.a6 -0.01/23 &Bianco is more active.
[34.Kf2± 0.82/22]
34...Rg8 0.57/24
[34...b4= -0.01/23 35.Rg3 Rg8]
35.Rg3± b4



36.g7 0.01/23
[36.Kf2± 0.58/20]
36...Kf7 37.Bh6 Bb5 38.Ra1 0.01/18
[38.Rc1!± 0.52/23]
38...Bc6= The position is equal. **39.Re1 Bb5! 40.Ra1 Bc6!**

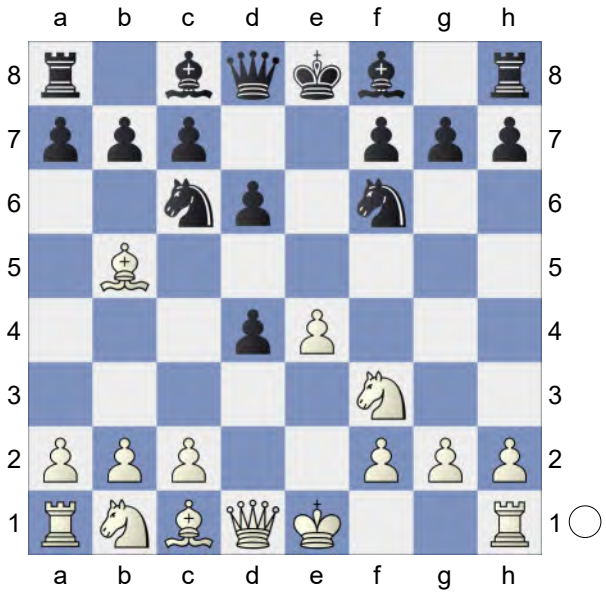


Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)
½-½

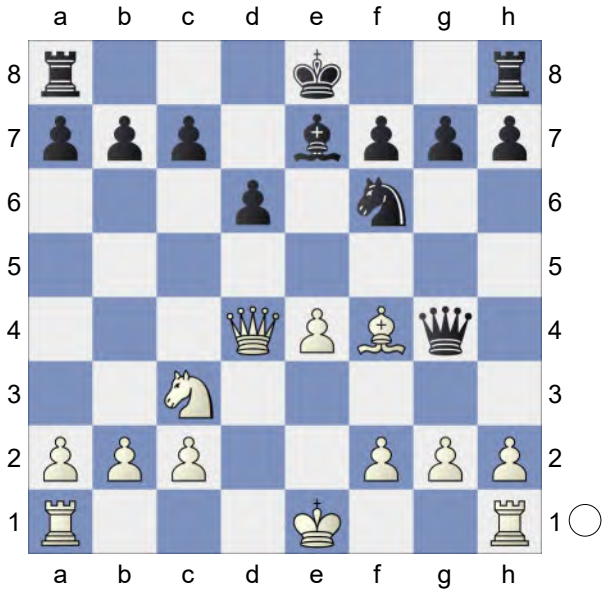
51 **C65**
□ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
■ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
Tata Steel Challengers (8.2) 26.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 d6 5.d4N**
[5.c3 g6 6.0-0 *(6.d4 Bd7 7.Nbd2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Ba4 exd4 10.cxd4 Re8 11.Re1 Nb4 12.Bb3 Re7 13.e5 dxe5 14.dxe5 Ng4 15.Ne4 h6 16.Bf4 Be8 17.h3 Nd3 18.hxg4 Nxf4 19.Nf6+ Kh8 20.Qxd8 Rxd8* 9.f4 Qb6 10.Qd3_68253-Pillhofer Schneider,J Bognor 2008 Inf 47 [Westera,Bert]*)* 6...Bg7 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Re1 Re8 9.d4 Bd7 10.d5 Ne7 11.Bxd7 Nxd7 12.a4 h6 13.a5 a6 14.b4 f5 15.c4 Nf6 16.Bb2 Qd7 17.Rb1 g5 18.exf5 Qxf5 19.Nf1 Qh7 Smerdon,D-10.Kb1 b5 11.c5_7382 (2830) Jermuk 106/156 2003 CBM 118 [Mchedlishvili,M; Izoria,Z] 1-0 (39) 20.N3d2 Nf5 21.Ne4 Nxe4 22.Rxe4 h5 23.Qd3 Rf8 24.Rbe1 Rf7 25.R1e2 g4 26.Qb3 Raf8 27.c5 Qg6 28.cxd6 cxd6 29.b5 axb5 30.Qxb5 Bh6 31.Qb6 Kh7 32.Qb4 Rg7 33.Rxe5 dxe5 34.Qxf8 Nd4 Palma,T-10.Ba3 b6 11.ba5 Ra5_7468 Skelleftea SWE 2001 200 Traps In The Opening [Massetti, INF 84/290] 1-0 (39)]
5...exd4
[Don't play 5...Nxe4 6.Qe2 Nf6 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Nxe5±]

(Diagram)

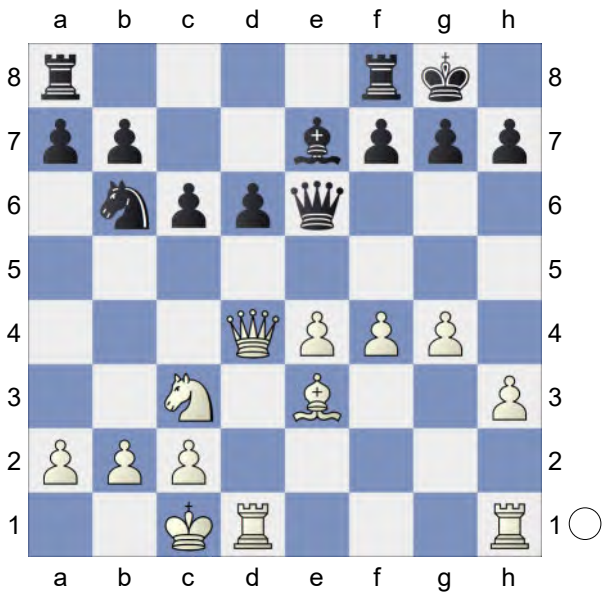


6.Nxd4 Bd7 7.Nc3 Nxd4 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.Qxd4 Be7 10.Bf4 Qg4

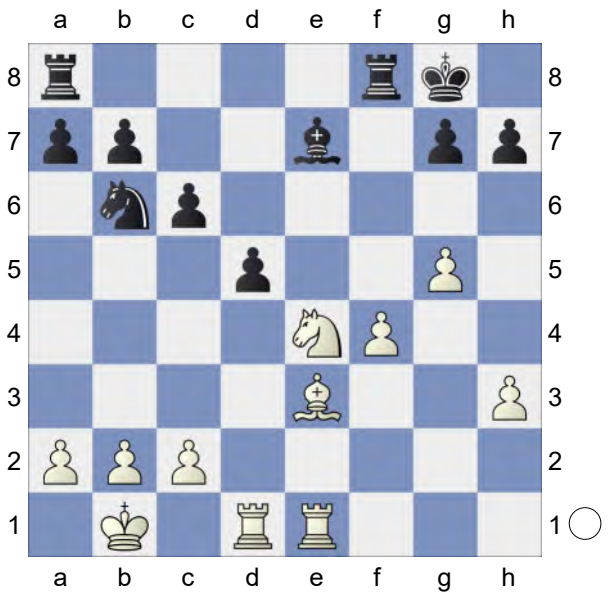


11.Be3 c6 12.h3 Qe6 13.0-0-0 0-0 14.g4 Nd7 15.f4 Nb6 0.69/18
[15...b5 0.38/17 feels stronger.]

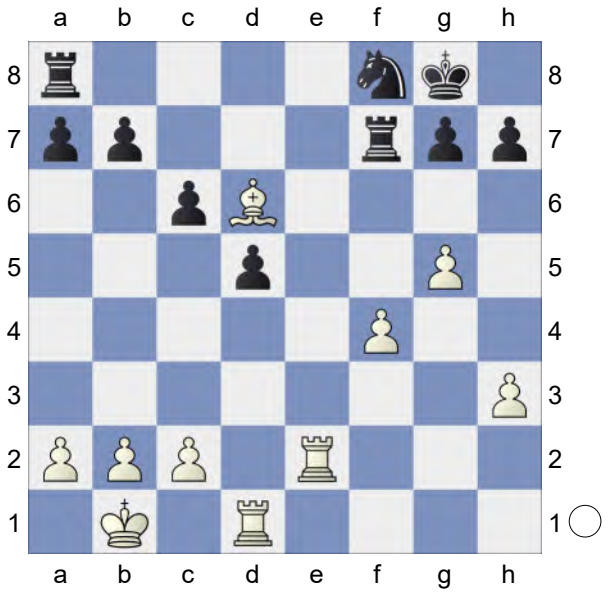
(Diagram)



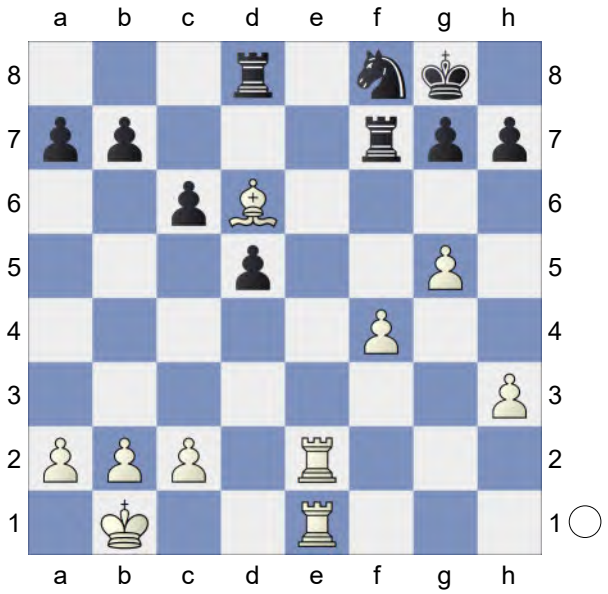
16.g5 0.26/21
[16.f5± 0.69/18 Qc4 17.g5]
16...f5= 17.Kb1 Qc4
[17...fxe4 feels hotter. 18.Nxe4 Qc4 19.Rhe1 Qxd4 20.Bxd4 Rxf4 21.Nxd6 Bxd6 22.Bxb6 Bb4]
18.Rhe1 -0.01/21
[18.exf5± 0.33/19 might be stronger. Rxf5 19.Qd2]
18...fxe4! 19.Qxe4 Qxe4 -0.16/19
[19...Rae8 0.15/21 is superior.]
20.Nxe4 d5



21.Nc5 Bxc5 22.Bxc5 Rf7 0.60/19
[22...Rxf4= 0.20/22 is more appropriate. 23.Re7 Na4]
23.Re2 0.23/22
[23.h4!± 0.60/19 should be considered.]
23...Nd7 24.Bd6 Nf8

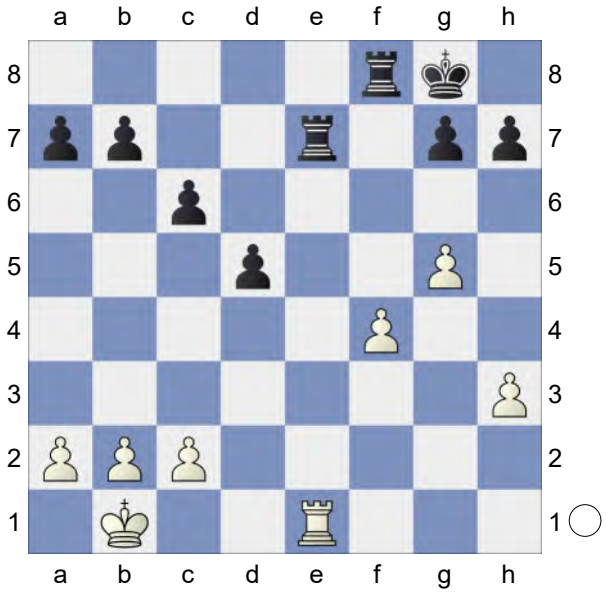


25.Rde1 -0.01/22 &Bianco is much more active. The black rooks are badly placed.
[25.Rf1!± 0.71/21]
25...Rd8!

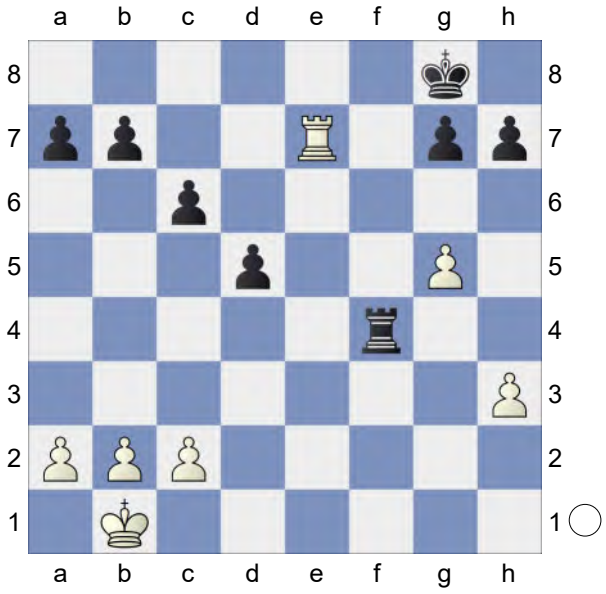


26.Be7 Re8 27.Bd6 Rd8 28.Be7 Rd7 29.Bxf8 -0.01/23
[⌓29.Bc5 0.30/19]

29...Rxf8 The position is equal. **30.Re7 Rxe7**

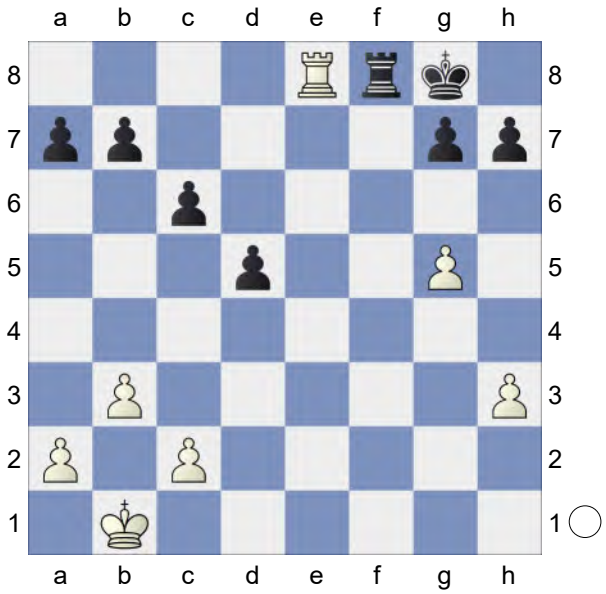


31.Rxe7 Rxf4



(→ ...Rf1+). KR-KR **32.b3 Rf7 33.Re8+ Rf8 34.Re7 Rf7 35.Re8+ Rf8**

(Diagram)

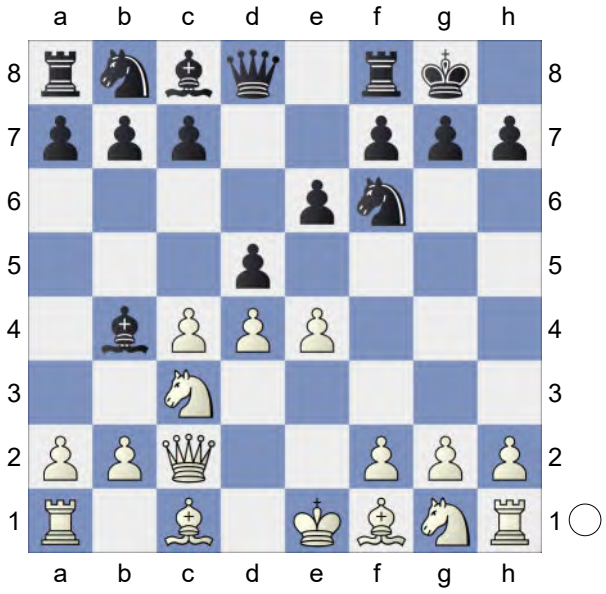


Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

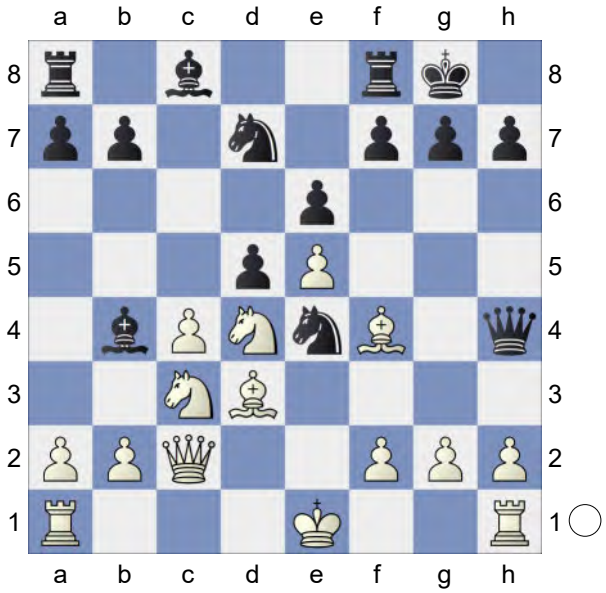
½-½

52 **E32**
□ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
■ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
Tata Steel Challengers (8.3) 26.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

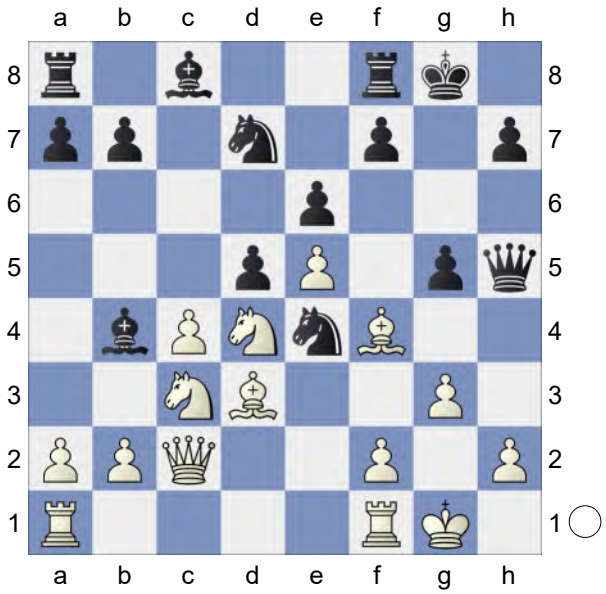
E32: Nimzo-Indian: Classical (4 Qc2): 4... 0-0 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.e4 d5**



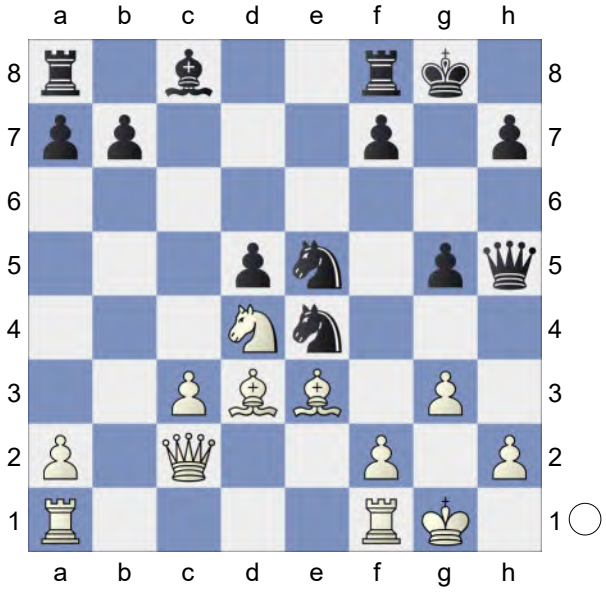
6.e5 Ne4 7.Bd3 c5! 8.Nf3 cxd4 9.Nxd4 The position is equal. **9...Nd7 10.Bf4 Qh4**



11.g3 Qh5 12.0-0 g5



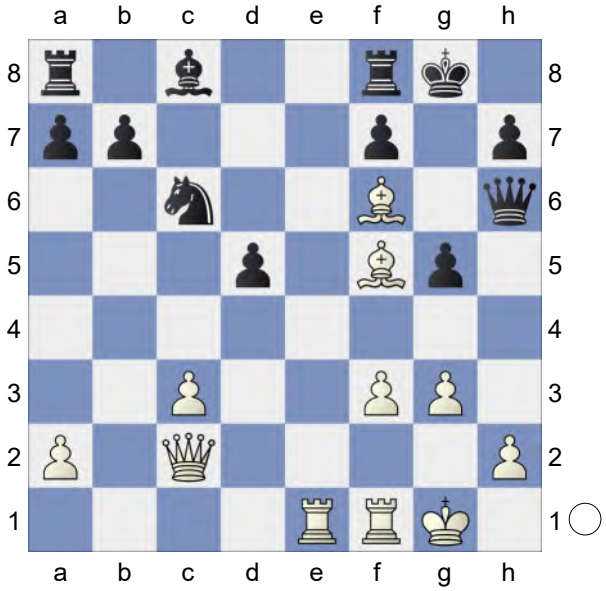
13.cxd5! Bxc3
[13...gxf4 14.dxe6]
14.bxc3 exd5 15.Be3 Nxe5



White must now prevent ...Ng4. **16.f3** Inhibits Ng4.
[Much weaker is 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Qxe4 Re8∓]
16...Nc5 17.Bf5 Ne6 18.Rae1! Nxd4 19.Bxd4 Nc6 20.Bf6 A strong pair of Bishops.
[20.Bc5 Bxf5 21.Qxf5 Rfe8 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.Qd7 Re2

24.Qc8+ Kg7 25.Qf8+ Kg6 26.Qg8+ Kf6 27.Qh8+ Kg6 28.Qg8+ Kf6 29.Qh8+ Kg6 30.Qg8+ Kf6 Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2767)-Ciocaltea, V (2717) Armenia 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [Harding/Busemann]]

20...Qh6



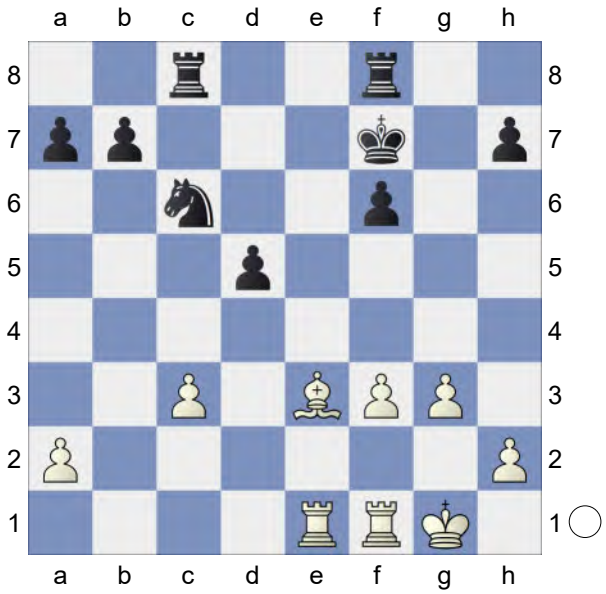
21.Bxc8 Raxc8N

[21...Qxf6 22.Bxb7 Rad8 Classical Variation Qc-4.Qc2 O-O 5.e4 d5 6.e5 Ne4 7.]

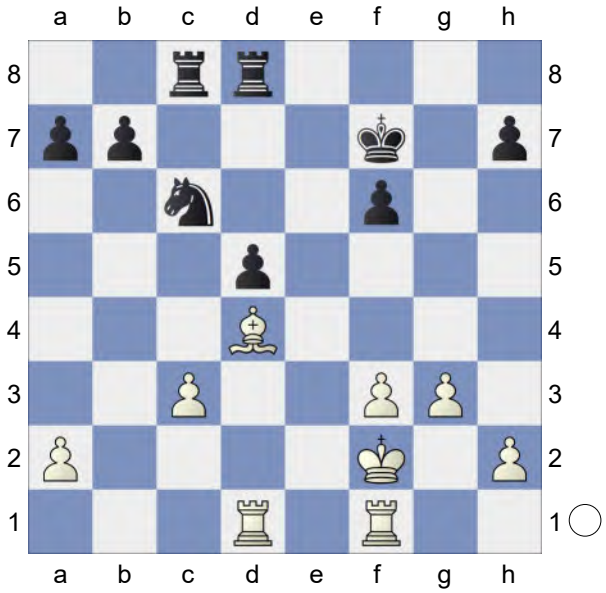
22.Qf5 Qg6⇄ Black is fighting back

23.Qxg5 Qxg5 24.Bxg5 f6 25.Be3 Kf7

(Diagram)



26.Rd1 Rfd8 27.Kf2 Ne5 28.Bd4 Nc6 29.Be3! Ne5 30.Bd4 Nc6



A balanced but interesting game. Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) / Black=0.01 (flawless)

½-½

53 **D73**
□ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
■ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
Tata Steel Challengers (8.4) 26.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

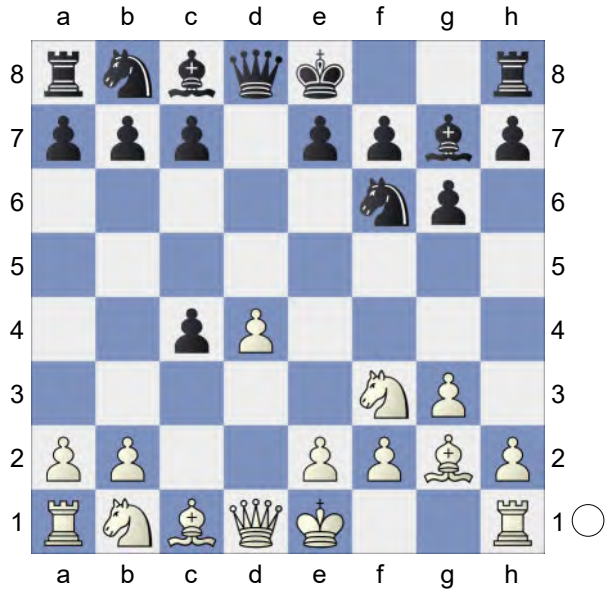
D77: Fianchetto Grünfeld: 6 0-0: Replies other than 6...c6 **1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d4**

[4.0-0 e5 5.d3 Nc6 6.e4 Nf6 7.Nc3 dxe4 8.dxe4 Bg4 9.Be3 Qc8 10.Qc1 0-0 11.Ne1 Nd4 12.f3 Be6 13.Rf2 c6 14.Nb1 Rd8 15.c3 Nb5 16.Nd2 Nd6 17.Qc2 Qc7 18.b3 a5 Anton Guijarro,D (2655)-Warmerdam,M (2612) Deutschland 155/(2) 2023]

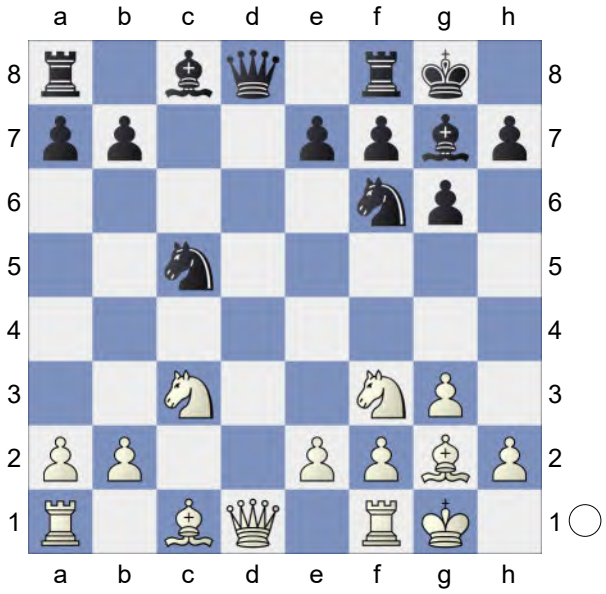
4...Nf6 5.c4N

[5.0-0 c6 6.b3 0-0 7.c4 a5 8.Nc3 Ne4 9.Bb2 Nxc3 10.Bxc3 a4 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.bxa4 Bd7 13.Qb3 Bxa4 14.Qxb7 Nc6 15.Rfb1 Qd6 16.Qb2 Na5 17.Bb4 Qe6 18.e3 Nc4 19.Qe2 Bb5 Ding,L (2791)-Caruana,F (2835) chess24.com (Int.-m/5-blitz) 146/(149) 2020 [Moradiabadi,Elshan] (36)]

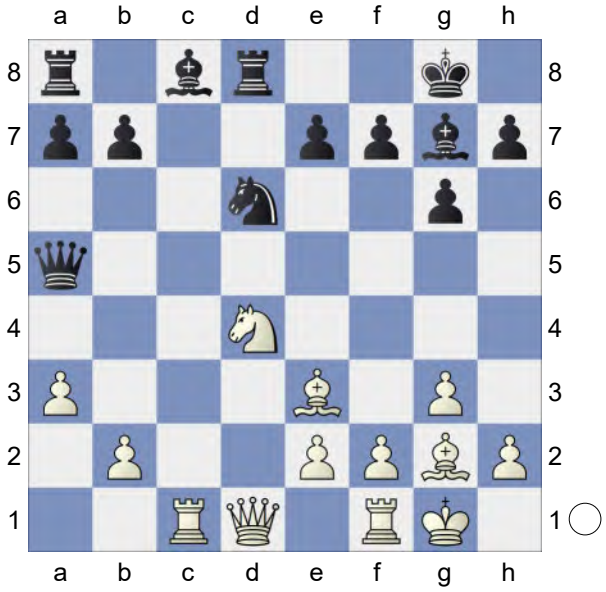
5...dxc4



6.0-0 0-0 7.Na3 c5 8.dxc5 c3 9.Nb5 Na6 10.Nxc3 Nxc5

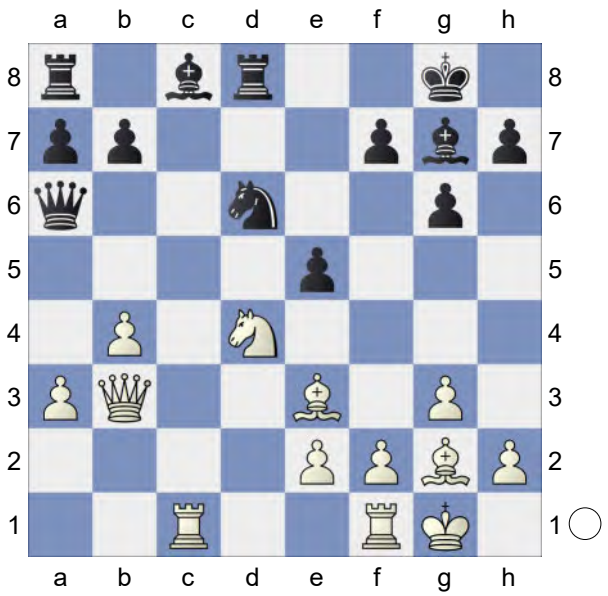


The position is equal. **11.Be3 Nfe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Nd4 Nd6 14.Rc1** Inhibits Nc4. **14...Qa5 15.a3 Rd8**



16.b4 Qa6 17.Qb3 e5

(Diagram)

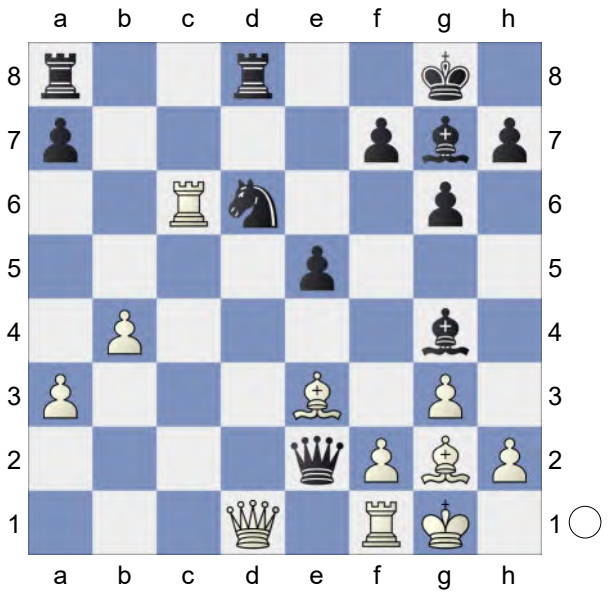


18.Nc6 bxc6

[18...Be6 19.Ne7+]

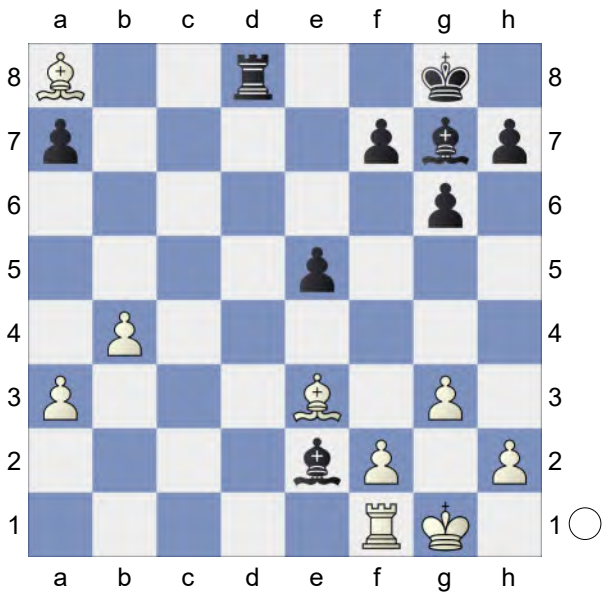
19.Rxc6 Qxe2 aiming for ...Be6.

20.Qd1! Bg4

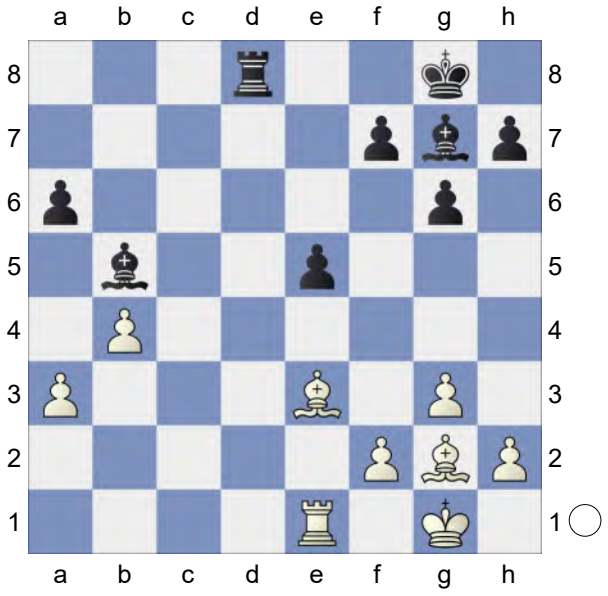


21.Rxd6 Qxd1 22.Rdxd1 Bxd1 23.Bxa8 Be2

(Diagram)

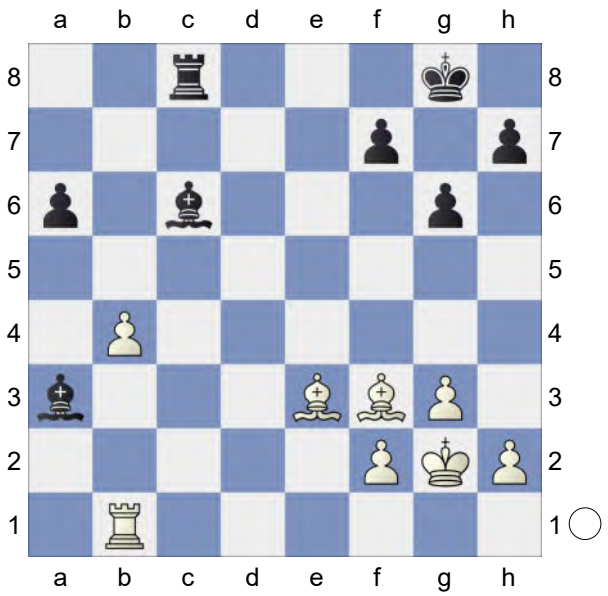


24.Re1 Bb5 Inhibits Bc6. **25.Bg2 a6!**

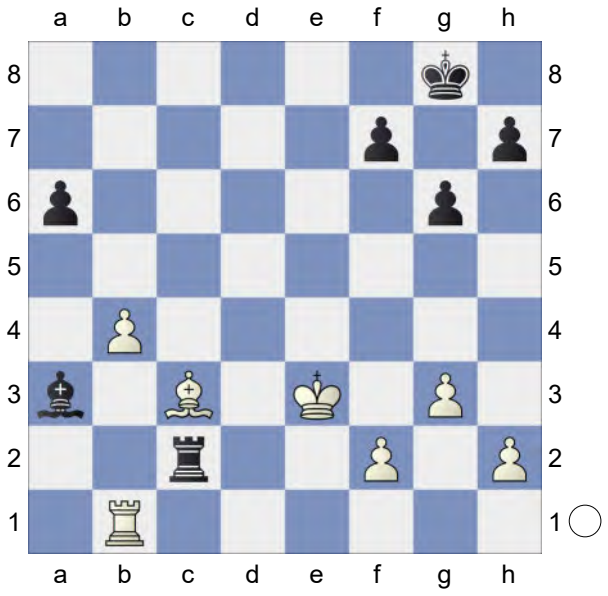


26.Rc1 e4! 27.Bxe4 next Rc2 is good for White. **27...Bb2 28.Rb1 Bxa3 29.Kg2** Hoping for Rb3. **29...Rc8 30.Bf3 Bc6**

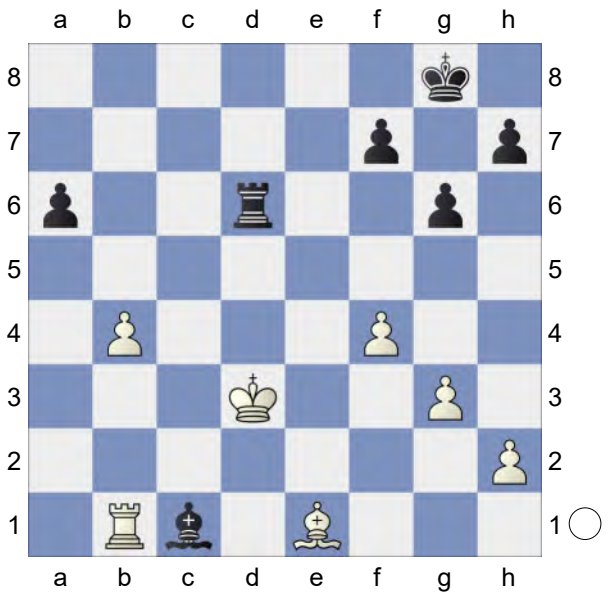
(Diagram)



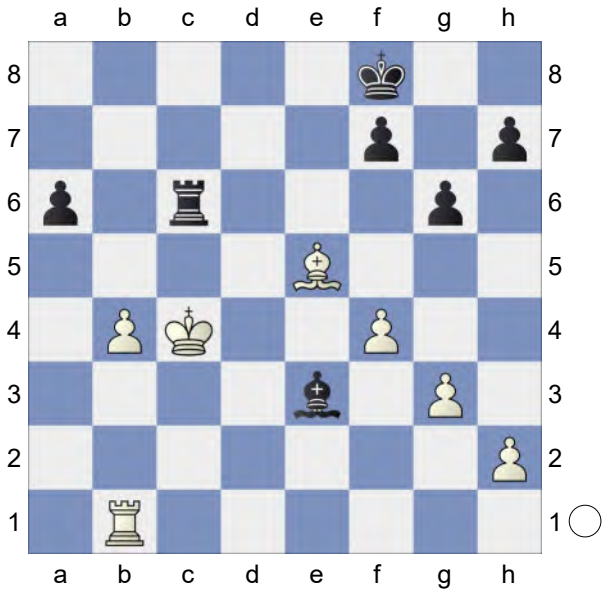
31.Bxc6 Rxc6= Endgame KRB-KRB **32.Kf3** Ke2 is the strong threat. **32...Rc8** 0.73/22
[32...Rc2!± 0.32/25]
33.Bd2!± Rc2 34.Ke3 Ra2! 35.Bc3! Prevents Bb2. **35...Rc2**



36.Bd2 -0.01/21
[36.Kd4± 0.58/22]
36...Ra2!= 37.Bc3 0.01/17
[37.Kd3± 0.75/21]
37...Rc2 38.Be1 0.30/20
[Better is 38.Kd4± 1.10/22]
38...Bc1+ 39.Kd3 Rc6 40.f4 Rd6+!

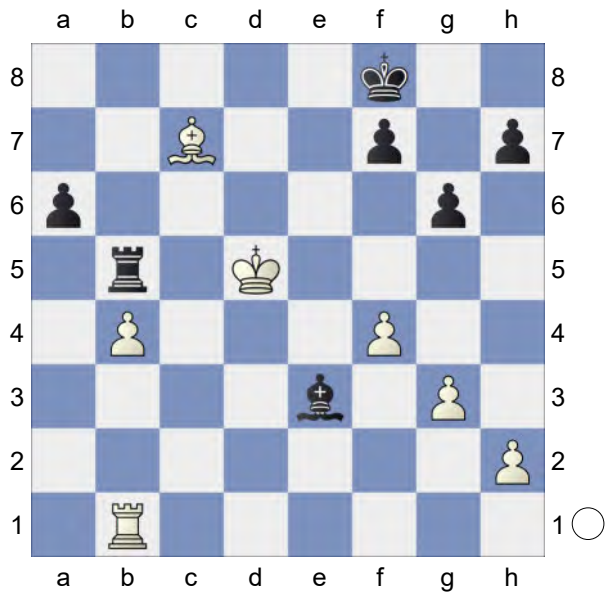


41.Kc4 Be3 Inhibits Bf2. **42.Bc3 Kf8 43.Be5 Rc6+** 0.85/22
[43...Re6± 0.49/23 deserves consideration.]

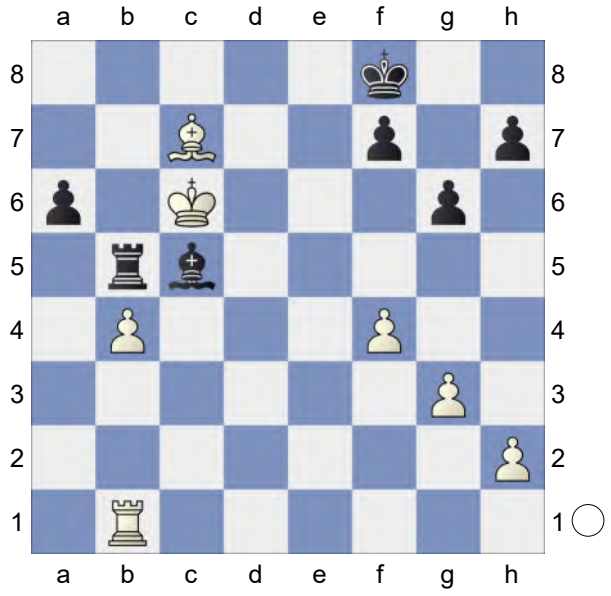


44.Kd5!± Rb6 45.Bc7 0.69/22
[45.Rb2± 1.01/21]
45...Rb5+!±

(Diagram)

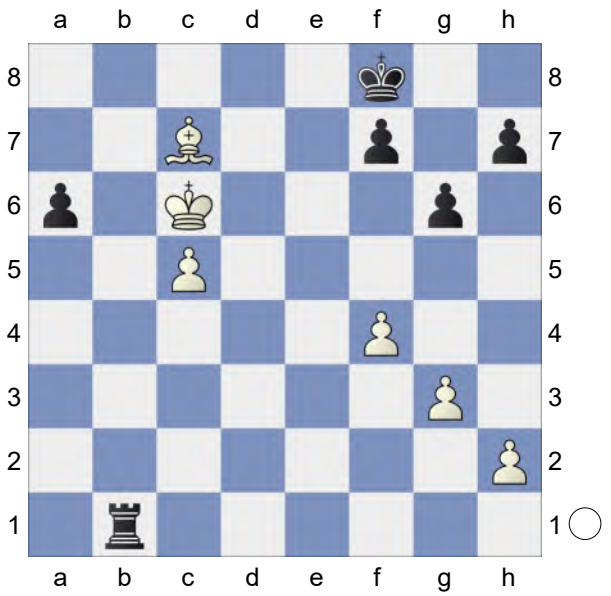


46.Kc6 Bc5

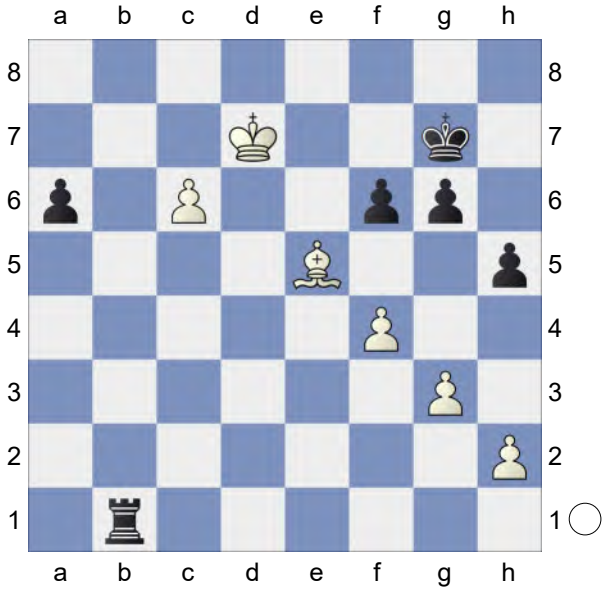


47.bxc5! Rxb1±

(Diagram)

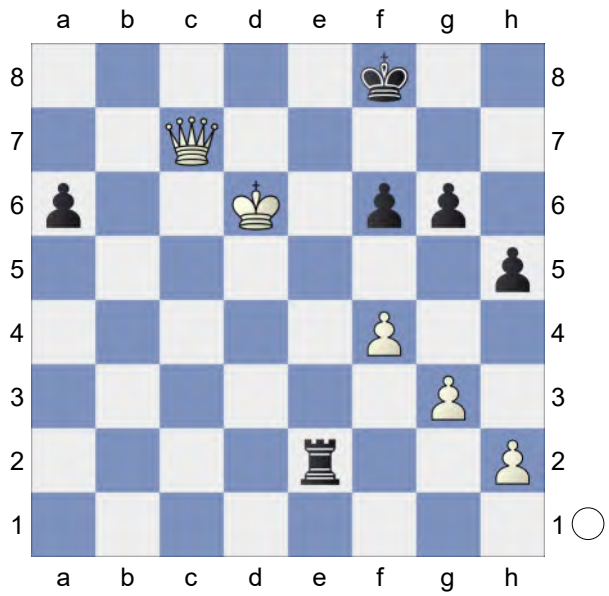


KR-KB **48.Kd7 h5?** 7.29/28
Black cannot hold the game after this.
[48...Rh1± 1.43/24 49.h4 *(49.Bd6+ Kg7±)* 49...Rc1]
49.c6 Kg7 50.Be5+ f6

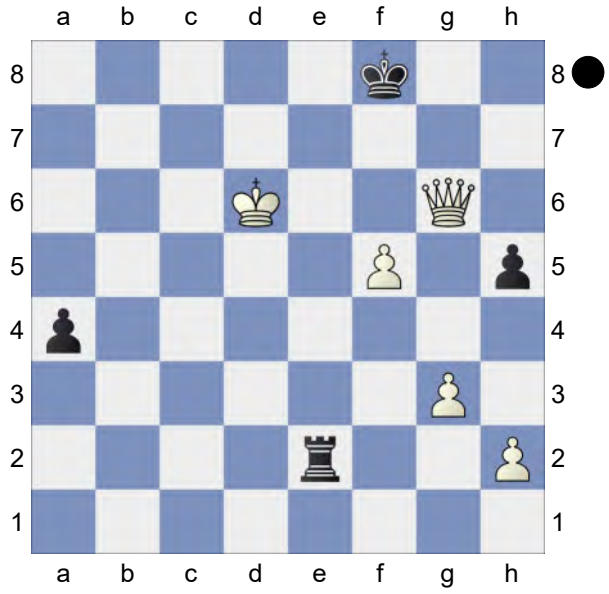


51.c7 Rc1 52.Bb2 Rc2 53.c8Q Rxb2+- KQ-KR **54.Qc7** White threatens Ke6+ and mate. **54...Re2 55.Kd6+ Kf8**

(Diagram)



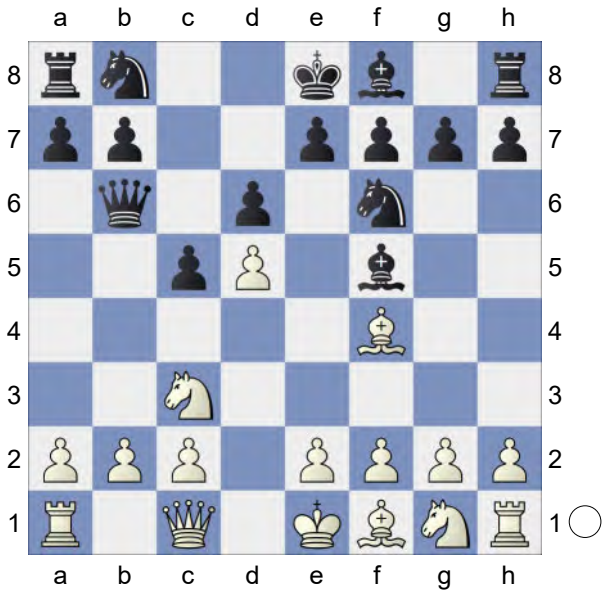
56.Qh7 White wants to mate with f5.
56...a5 57.Qxg6 White mates. **57...a4 58.Qxf6+ Kg8 59.Qg6+ Kf8 60.f5**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.20 (precise)
1-0

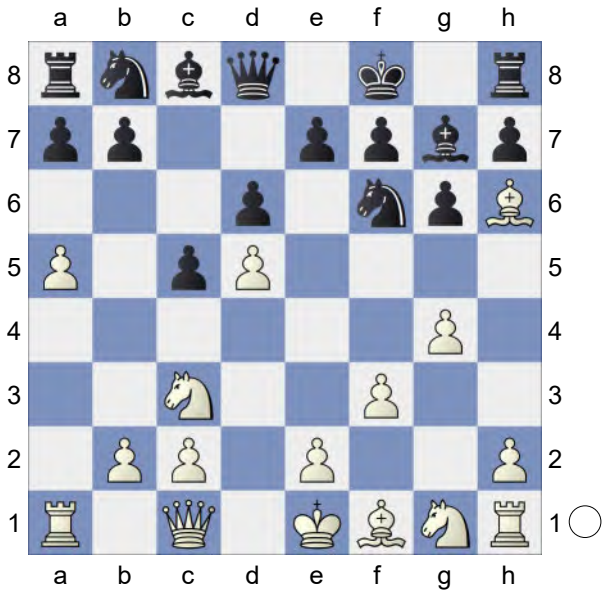
54 **A45**
□ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
■ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
Tata Steel Challengers (8.5) 26.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

A45: Trompowsky Attack **1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 c5 3.d5 Qb6 4.Nc3 d6 5.Qc1N**
[5.Bc1 g6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.e4 0-0 8.Bc4 1 Benoni Setups-3...Qb6 Variation]
5...Bf5

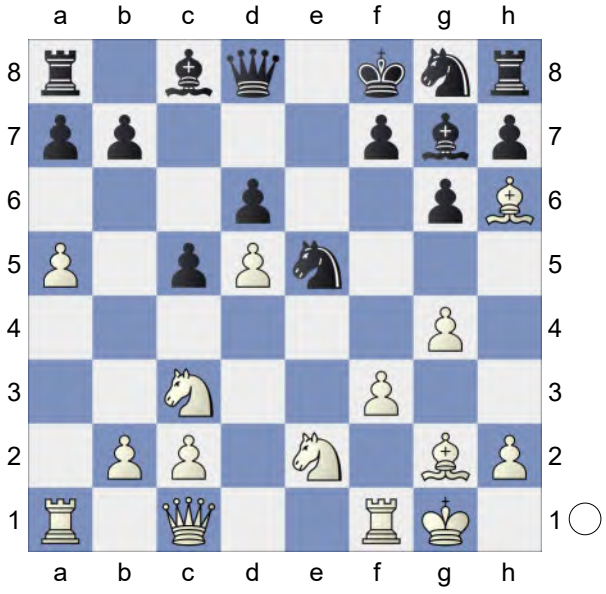


6.f3 g6 7.a4 Bg7 8.a5 White is slightly better. **8...Qd8**
[8...Qb4? 9.Ra4+-]
9.g4 Bc8 10.Bh6 Kf8

(Diagram)

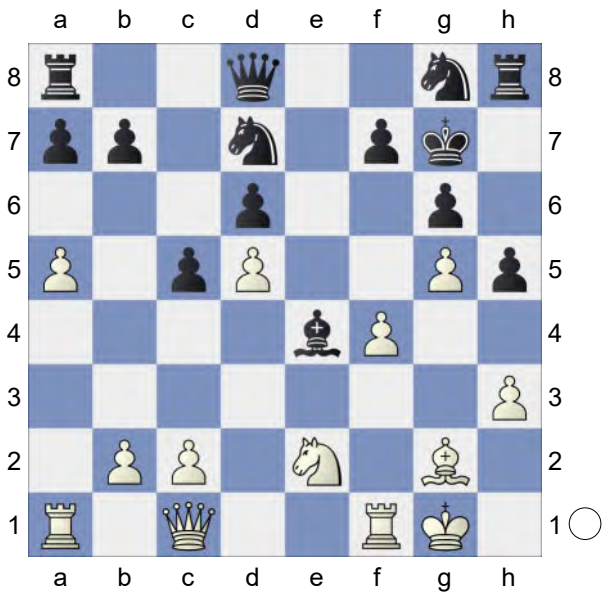


11.e4 e6 12.Nge2 exd5 13.exd5 Nbd7 14.Bg2 0.42/17 &Bianco is more active.
[14.Ng3± 0.74/18]
14...Ne5 0.87/18
[14...b5± 0.42/17]
15.0-0 Ng8

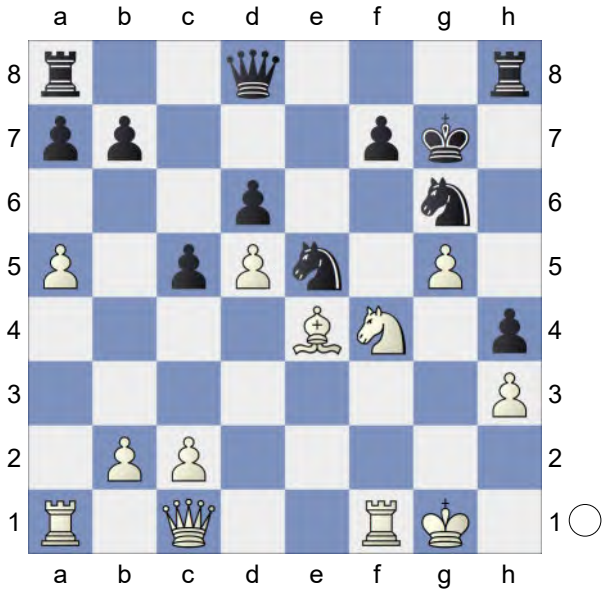


16.Bxg7+ Kxg7 17.h3 h5 18.g5 Bf5 19.f4 Nd7 20.Ne4 Bxe4

(Diagram)

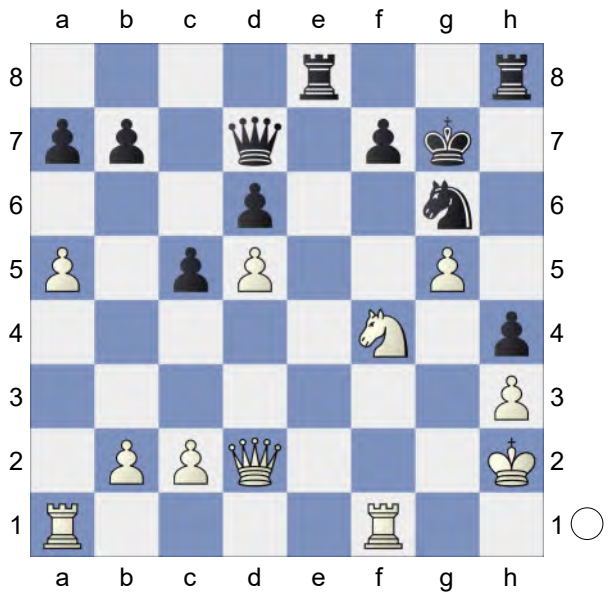


21.Bxe4 Ne7 22.f5 gxf5 23.Bxf5 Ne5 24.Be4 h4 25.Nf4 N7g6

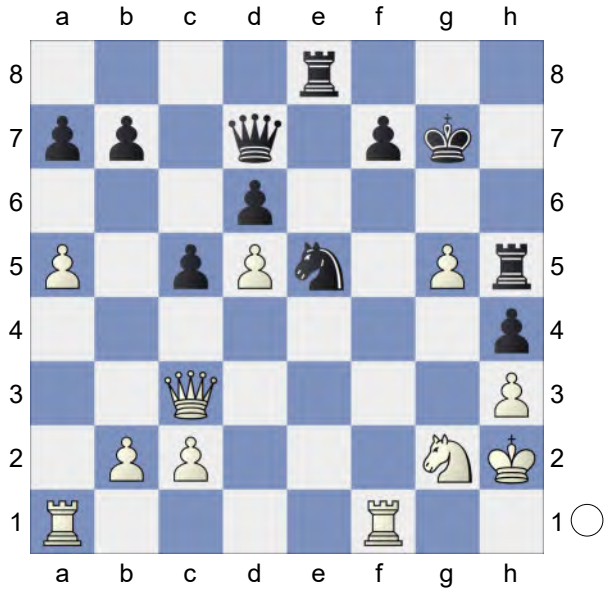


26.Bxg6 Nxg6
[26...Qxg5+? 27.Kh1 Qh6 28.Be4+-]
27.Kh2! Qd7
[27...Qxg5 28.Ne6+! fxe6 29.Qxg5 Rhf8 30.dxe6 Rae8 31.Rxf8 Rxf8 32.Rg1 Rf2+ 33.Kh1]
28.Qd2 Rae8

(Diagram)

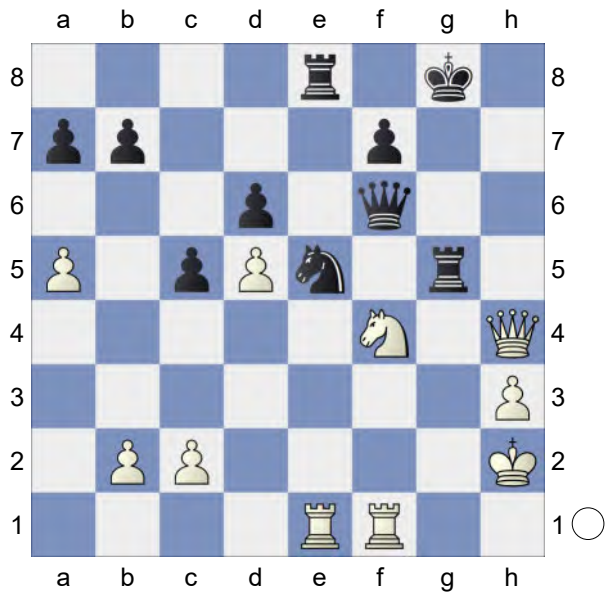


29.Qc3+ Ne5 30.Ng2 0.53/21
[30.Rf2± 1.37/21]
30...Rh5±

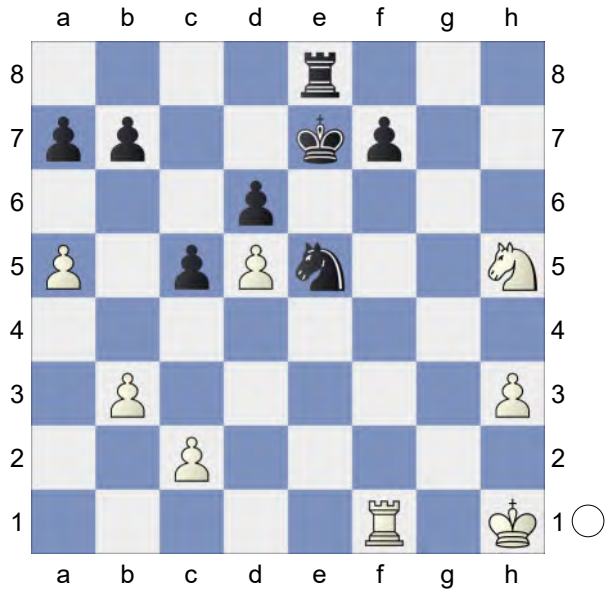


31.Qd2! Kh7 32.Qf2 Threatens to win with Nf4. **32...Qe7 33.Nf4 Rxg5** Hoping for ...Rf5. **34.Qxh4+ Kg8 35.Rae1 Qf6**

(Diagram)

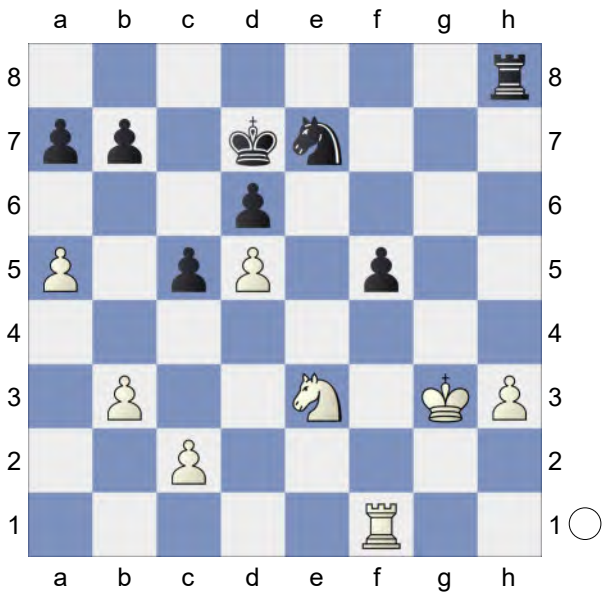


36.Kh1 Rf5 37.Qxf6 Rxf6 38.Nh5 Rxf1+ 39.Rxf1 Endgame KRN-KRN **39...Kf8 40.b3** -0.24/22 Inhibits Nc4.
[⌓40.Nf6 0.20/22 Ra8 41.b3]
40...Ke7 0.55/23
[Black should play 40...Ng6= -0.24/22]

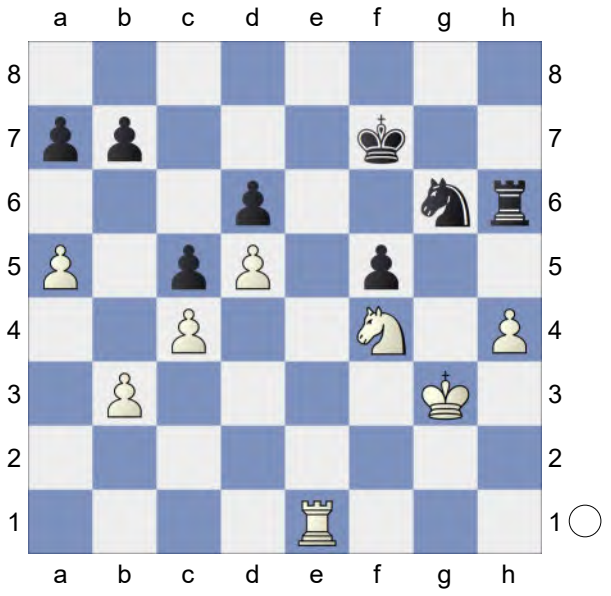


41.Ng7 Rh8 42.Nf5+ Kd7 43.Kg2 Ng6 0.98/23
[43...Kc7± 0.57/20]
44.Kg3 Ne7 45.Ne3 f5

(Diagram)

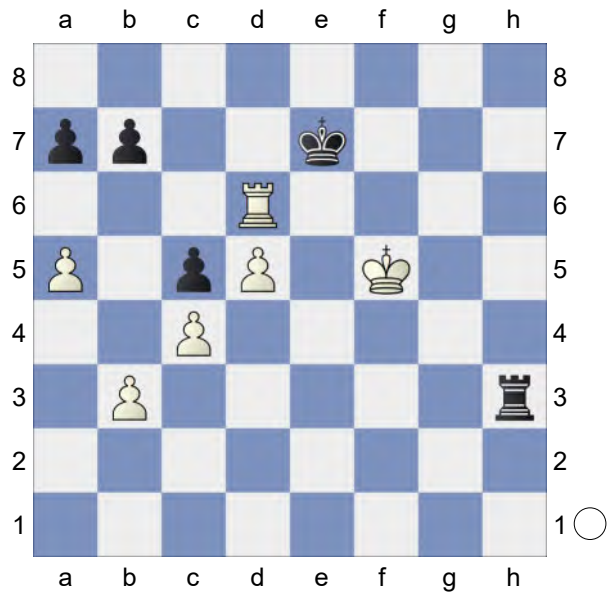


46.h4 Rh5! 47.c4 Ke8 1.04/27
[⌓47...Kc7 0.73/21]
48.Re1± Kf7 49.Ng2 Re6 is the strong threat. **49...Rh6** 1.78/23 Prevents Re6.
[49...Ng6± 1.04/24]
50.Nf4+- aiming for h5. **50...Ng6**

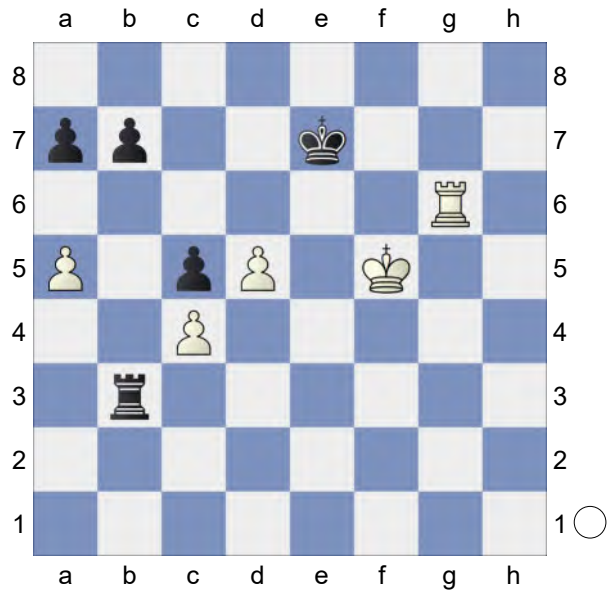


51.Nxg6 Rxg6+ KR-KR **52.Kf4 Rg4+ 53.Kxf5 Rxh4 54.Re6 Rh3 55.Rxd6** Strongly threatening Rd7+. **55...Ke7**

(Diagram)

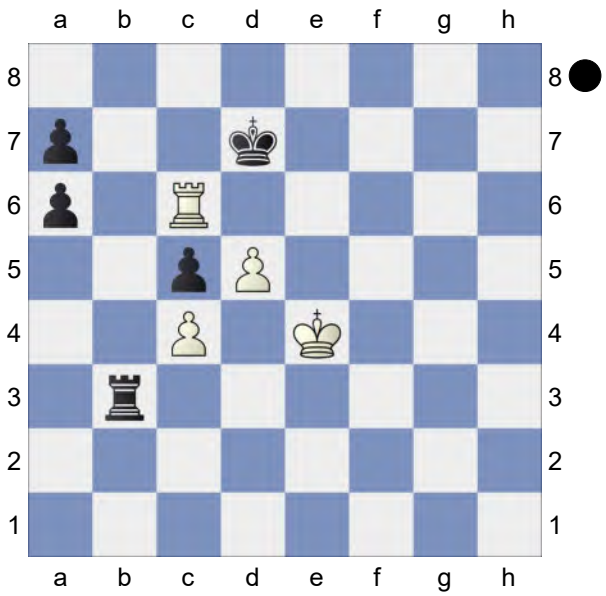


Prevents Rd7+. **56.Rg6** 1.36/25
[56.Re6++- 2.37/27 Kd7 57.a6]
56...Rxb3±



57.a6! bxa6 58.Rc6
[Much less strong is 58.Rxa6 Rf3+ 59.Ke5 Re3+ 60.Kf5 Rf3+ 61.Ke5 Re3+ 62.Kf5 Rf3+±]
58...Kd7 59.Ke4

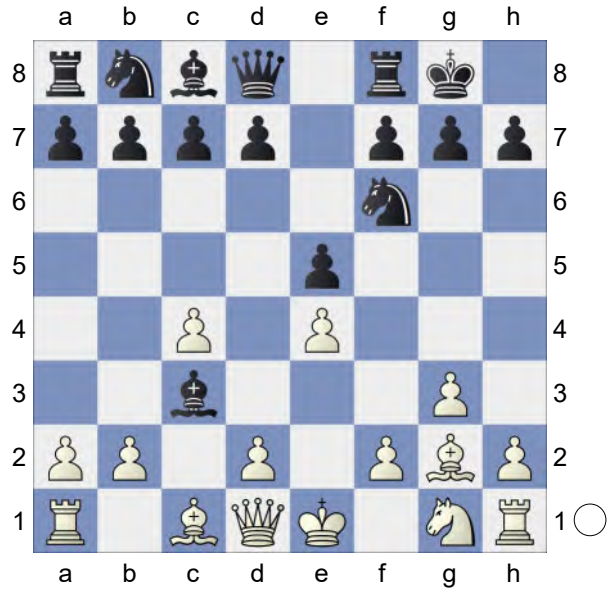
(Diagram)



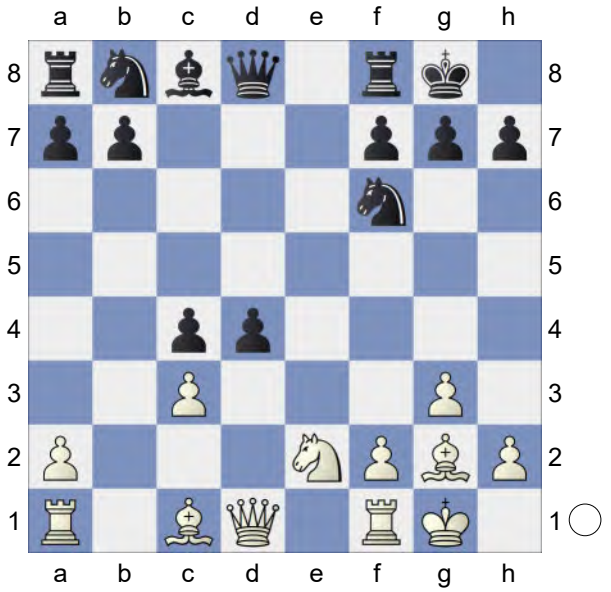
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0. 09 (flawless)
1-0

55 **A22**
□ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
■ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
Tata Steel Challengers (8.6) 26.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

A22: English Opening: 1...e5 2 Nc3 Nf6
1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bb4 4.Bg2 0-0 5.e4 Bxc3

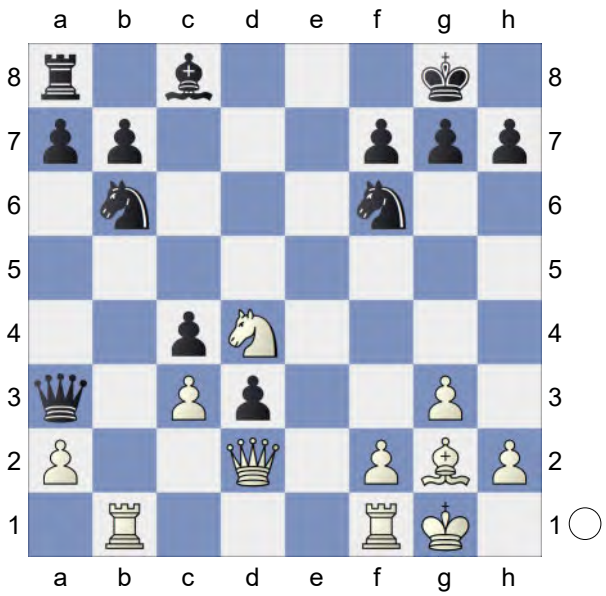


6.bxc3 c6 7.Ne2 d5 8.exd5 cxd5 9.d4N
[9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Rb1 *(11.d3 Bg4 12.Bb2 Qd7 13.Re1 Nb6 14.a4 Rad8 15.a5 Nc8 16.d4 N8e7 17.Qa4 Bh3 18.Bxh3 Qxh3 19.Ba3 Rfe8 20.a6 Qc8 21.axb7 Qxb7 22.Bc5 Ng6 23.Qa6 Qd7 24.Red1 e4 25.Qa4 Qe6* 6.Ne7 Qe7 7.f3 (2630)-Campos,J (2686) Carlow Sao 2013 200 Traps In The Opening [Ruester] ½-½ (49) *)* 11...Nb6 *(11...Re8 12.d3 Bg4 13.f3* King,S-Moves other than 3 Nf3 ChessPub Guide 2024 Flank Openings [ChessPublishing.com]*)* 12.Ba3 Re8 13.d3 Bf5 14.Nc1 e4 15.Rb5 Qf6 16.dxe4 Bxe4 17.Bxe4 Rxe4 18.Bc5 Na4 19.Qd7 a6 20.Qxb7 Ree8 21.Rb6 Nxb6 22.Qxb6 Qxc3 23.Qxc6 Rec8 English With E5-6.cd5 Qa5 7. e4_52562 Survey 2018 Lexikon18 [Psakhis,Ribli,Ftacnik]]
9...exd4 10.0-0 The position is equal.
[Of course not 10.Qxd4 Nc6 11.Qd2 dxc4∓]
10...dxc4

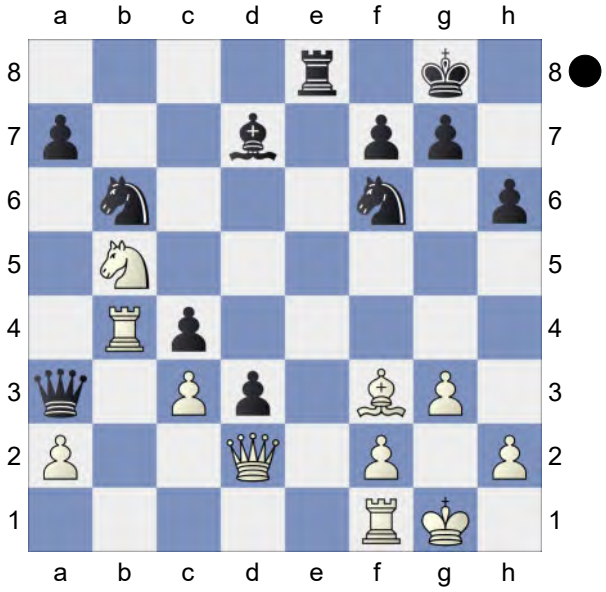


White must now prevent . ..d3. **11.Ba3** -0.64/21
[11.Nxd4= 0.08/19 Qa5 12.Bf4]
11...d3∓ Threatens to win with ...Bg4.
12.Bxf8 Qxf8 13.Nd4 Qa3 -0.52/21 Inhibits Qa4.
[13...Qc5∓ -0.89/19]
14.Qd2 Nbd7 15.Rab1 Nb6

(Diagram)

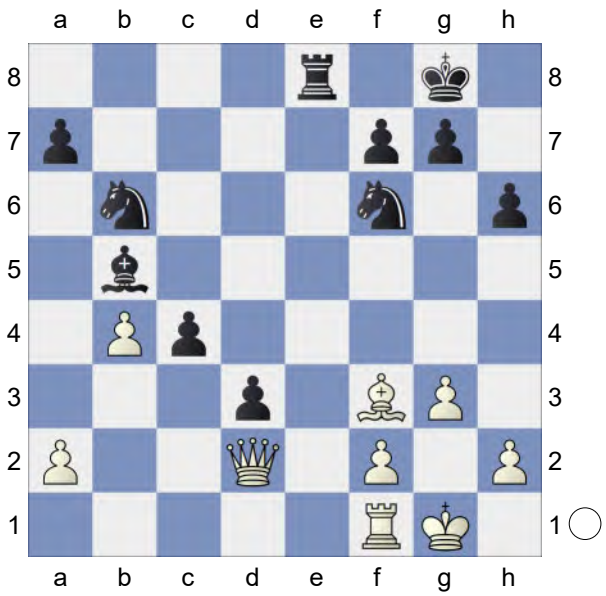


16.Rb4 -1.21/21
[⌓16.Rfe1 -0.72/19]
16...Bd7 17.Bxb7 Re8 18.Bf3 -1.27/22
[⌓18.Nb5 -0.74/23 Bxb5 19.Rxb5]
18...h6 19.Nb5

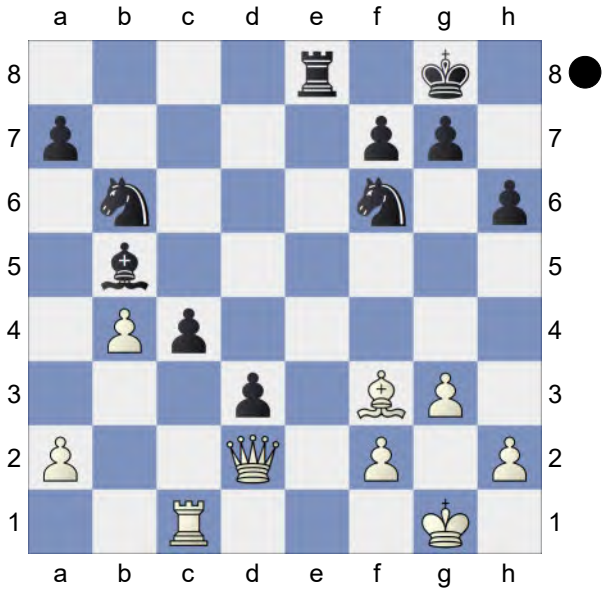


Qxb4 Remove Defender **20.cxb4 Bxb5**

(Diagram)

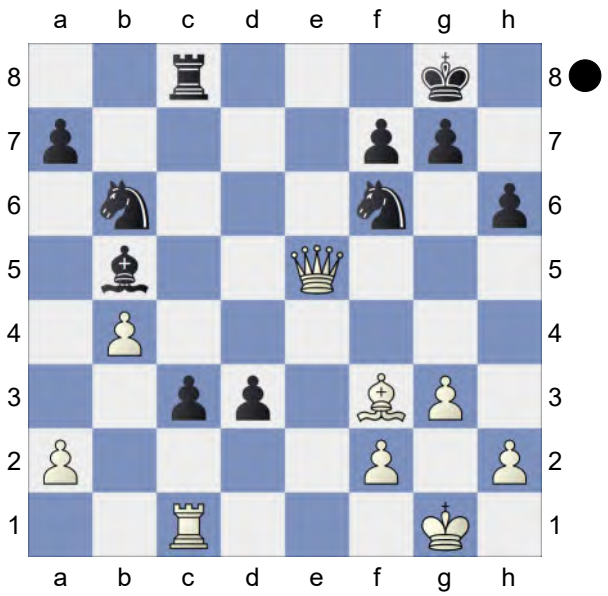


21.Rc1 -1.85/22
[21.Qf4∓ -1.15/19 c3 22.Qd4]



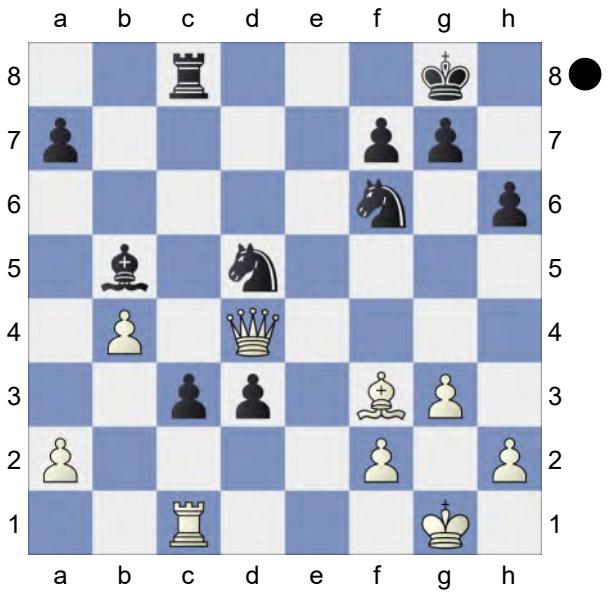
21...Rc8 -0.92/22
[21...Ne4!-+ -1.85/22 is more deadly. 22.Bxe4 Rxe4]
22.Qf4 c3 Strongly threatening ... d2.
23.Qe5

(Diagram)



Nbd5 24.Qd4

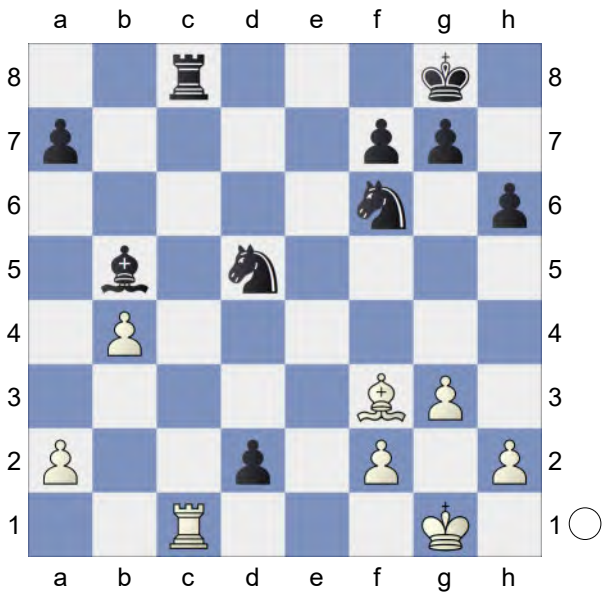
[Don't go for 24.Bxd5? d2 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7-+]



24...d2! &Nero is much more active.

25.Qxd2 cxd2

(Diagram)



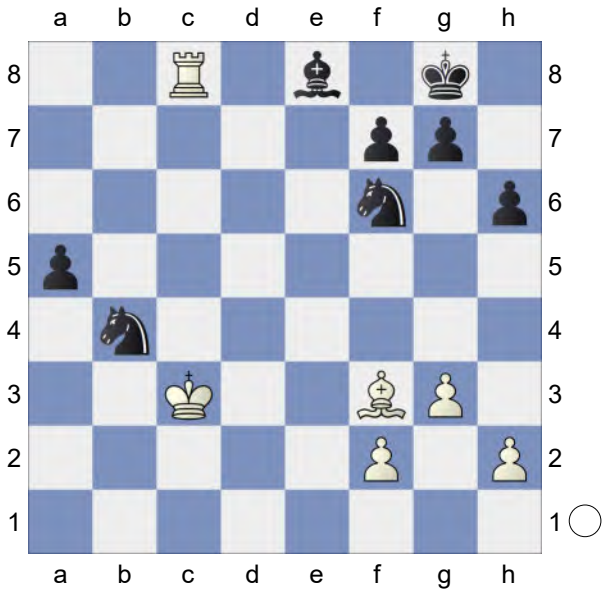
26.Rxc8+ Be8 -0.44/24

[Better is 26...Kh7∓ -1.19/24 27.Rc2 Nxb4 28.Rxd2 a5]

27.Kf1 -1.92/23 This move loses the game for White.

[White should play 27.Rc4!∓ -0.44/24]

27...Nxb4-+ 28.Ke2 Nxa2 29.Kxd2 Nb4 30.Kc3 a5

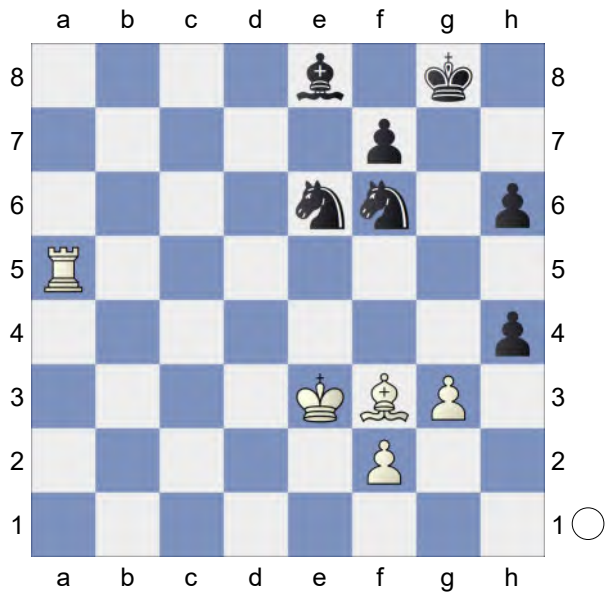


31.Rc5

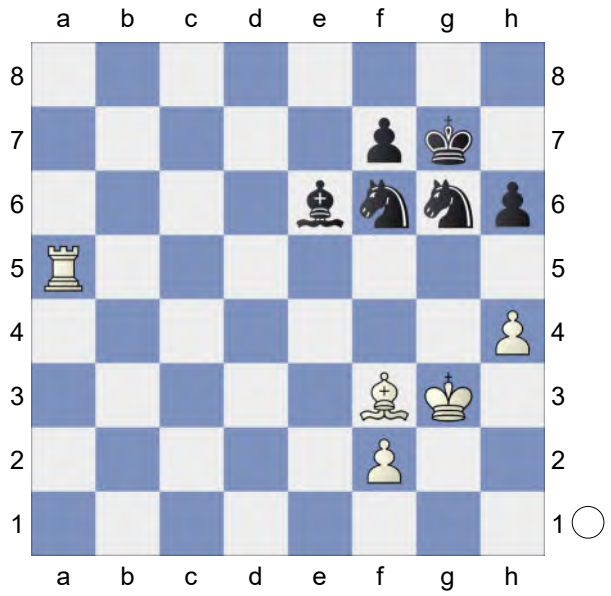
[Reject 31.Ra8 Kf8 32.Rxa5 Nc6∓]

31...Na6 32.Rxa5 Nc7 33.Kd4 Ne6+ 34.Ke3 g5 35.h4 gxh4

(Diagram)

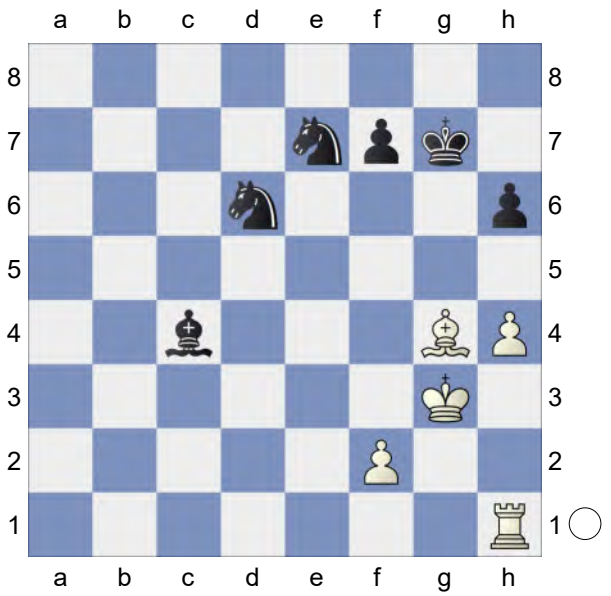


36.gxh4 Kg7 37.Bb7 Bd7 38.Bf3 Nf8 39.Kf4 Ng6+ 40.Kg3 Be6

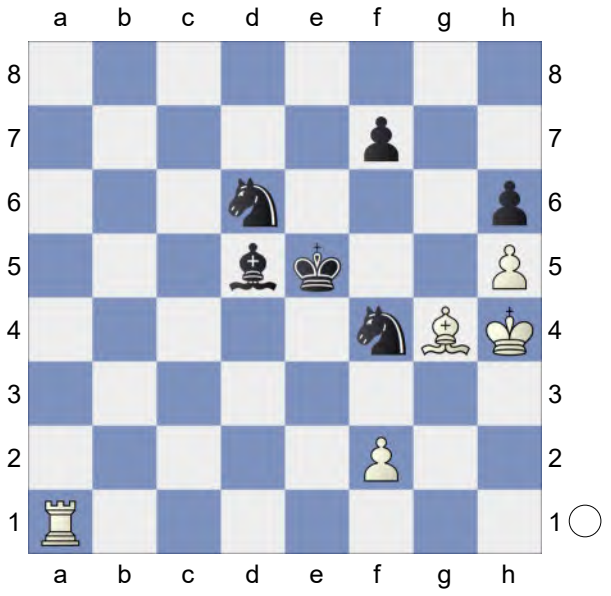


41.Ra1 Ne7 42.Rh1 Ne8 43.Bg4 Bd5 44.Bf3 Bc4 45.Bg4 Nd6

(Diagram)

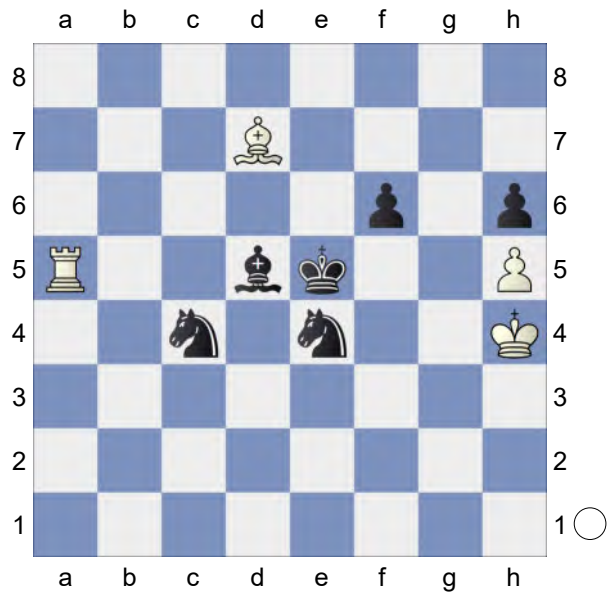


46.Re1 -2.42/23
[⌓46.Ra1 -1.99/20]
46...Kf6 47.Kh3 Bd5 48.Ra1 Ng6 49.h5 -3.22/24
[49.Ra3 -2.20/21 was called for.]
49...Nf4+ 50.Kh4 Ke5



51.Ra6? -4.52/24
[51.Ra3 -2.74/23]
51...Nd3 52.Ra5 Nxf2 53.Bd7 f6 54.Kg3 Nfe4+ 55.Kh4 Nc4

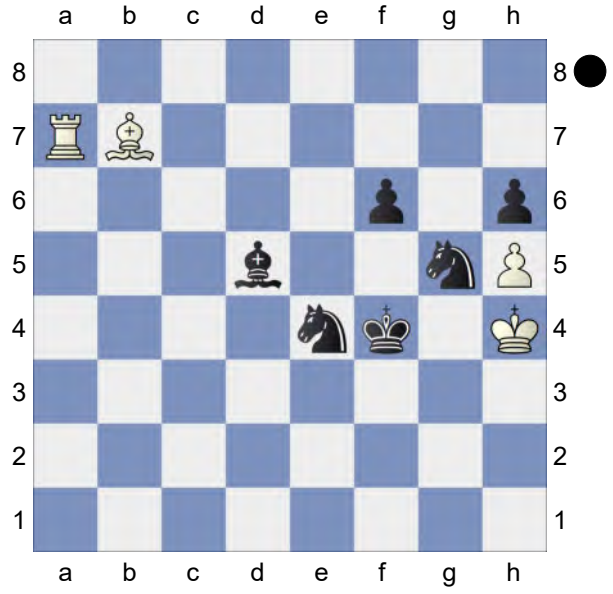
(Diagram)



56.Ra7 Kf4 57.Bc8 Ne5 58.Bb7 -7.10/35

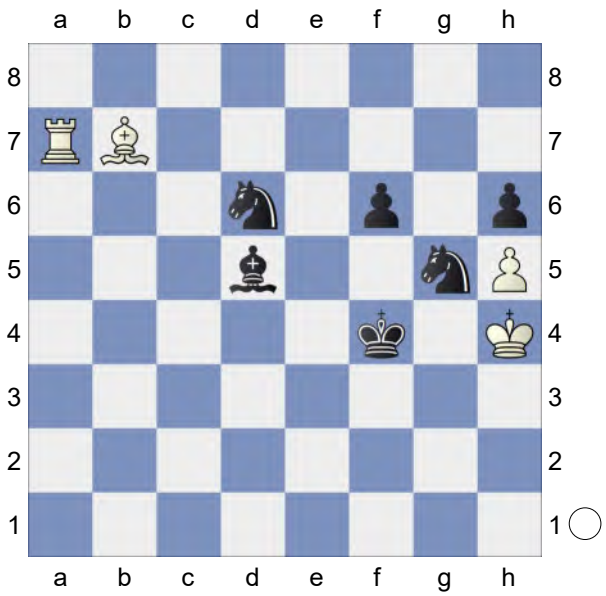
[⌓58.Kh3 -4.75/23]

58...Nf3+ 59.Kh3 Nfg5+ Black is clearly winning. **60.Kh4**

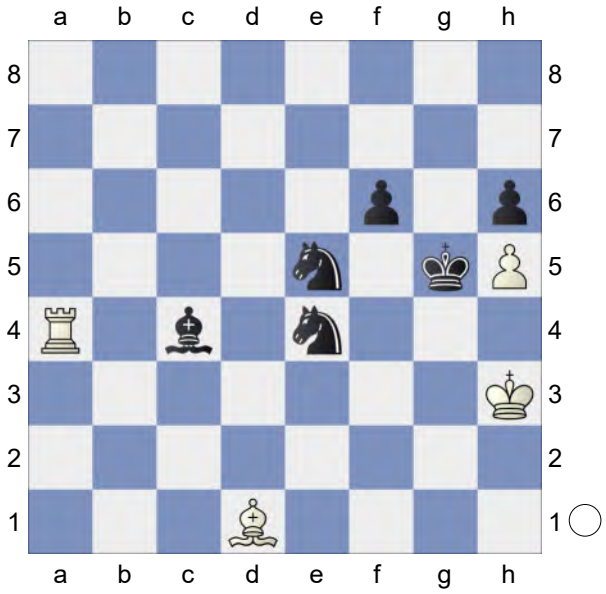


Nd6!

(Diagram)

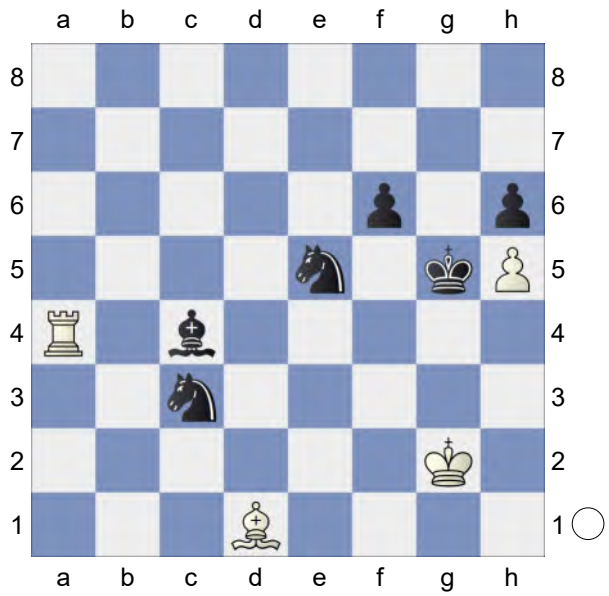


61.Ra4+ Bc4 62.Bc8 Nf3+ 63.Kh3 Kg5 64.Bg4 Ne5 65.Bd1 Ne4



66.Kg2 Inhibits Nf2. **66...Nc3**

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)

0-1

56 **A48**
□ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
■ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
Tata Steel Challengers (8.7) 26.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4 **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nbd2**

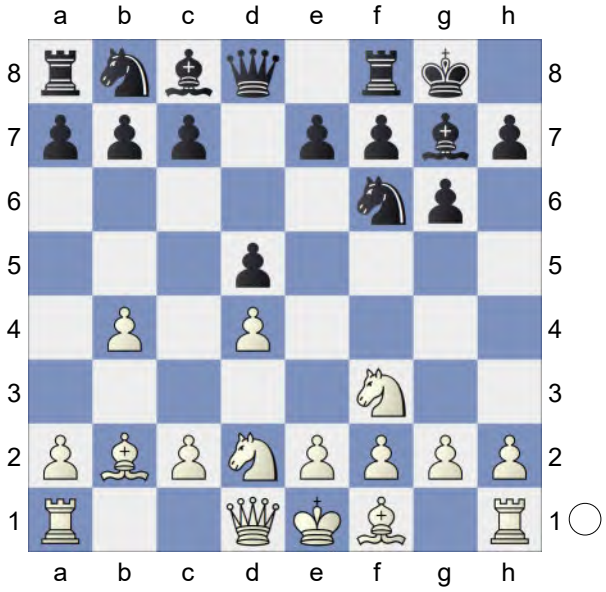
[3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.c4 Nc6 7.Nc3 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 0-0 9.0-0 d6 10.Qd3 Bf5 11.e4 Be6 12.b3 a6 13.Bb2 Nd7 14.Qd2 Nc5 15.f4 Rc8 16.f5 Bd7 17.f6 exf6 5..dxe4 (2545)-Henzler,S (2620) Novi Sad 1981 Mega2014 Update 23 [Wojtkiewicz,Aleksander] 1-0 (31)]

[3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 c5 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nc6 8.Nc3 Qa5 9.e3 d6 10.Bd2 Qc5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Rc1 Rb8 13.Na4 Qh5 14.Qxh5 Nxh5 15.b3 c5 16.Nc3 f5 17.Rfe1 Nf6 Da Silva,J (2218)-6.Qd1 ed5 7.e3 (2291) Fredeburg 2016 CYB 12 [Ftacnik Mikhalchishin Beliavsky Neven] ½-½]

3...d5N

[3...c5 4.e3 Bg7 5.c3 Qc7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 d5 Chapter-Rare Rd Moves 5.c3 Qc7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.Ne5 b6 *(8...Nfd7 9.f4 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nc6 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Rad8 14.Bd2 Qb6 15.Rab1 f6 16.exf6 Rxf6 17.Qe2 e5 18.c4 exf4 19.cxd5 fxe3 20.Rxf6 Bxf6 21.Bxe3 Re8 22.Qf2 Rxe3 23.Qxf6* 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.Nd5 Bc5 (2446)-Sybil (2581) Leningrad-Moscow m., Leningrad (Game 2) 2012 Telechess CBM 89 [Runting; Marin] 0-1 (42)*)* 9.f4 Ba6 10.Bxa6 Nxa6 11.Qe2 Qb7 12.Kh1 Nc7 13.a3 Nce8 14.Ng4 Nd6 15.Nf2 Qd7 16.Re1 Qe6 17.Kg1 Nfe4 18.Ndxe4 Nxe4 19.Nxe4 Qxe4 20.Kf2 Rfd8 21.Qf3 Qxf3+ 22.Kxf3 Rac8 Chapter-Rare Rd Moves 8.Ne5 (71)]

4.b4 Bg7 5.Bb2 0-0

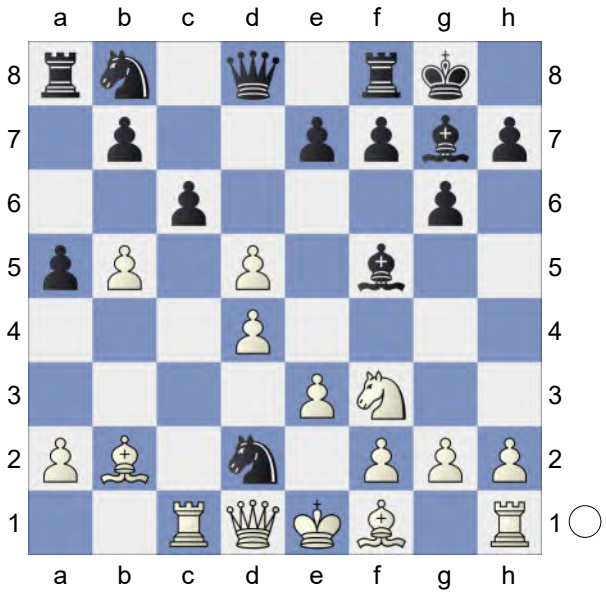


6.e3 Bf5 7.c4 c6 8.Rc1 -0.19/19

[⌓8.a4 0.13/17]

8...a5= 9.b5 Ne4 10.cxd5 Nxd2

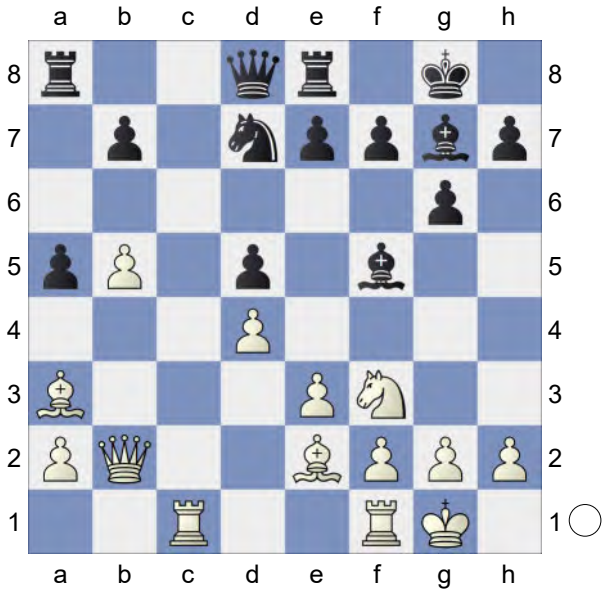
[10...cxb5 seems wilder. 11.Bxb5 Qxd5 12.Bc4 Qd7]



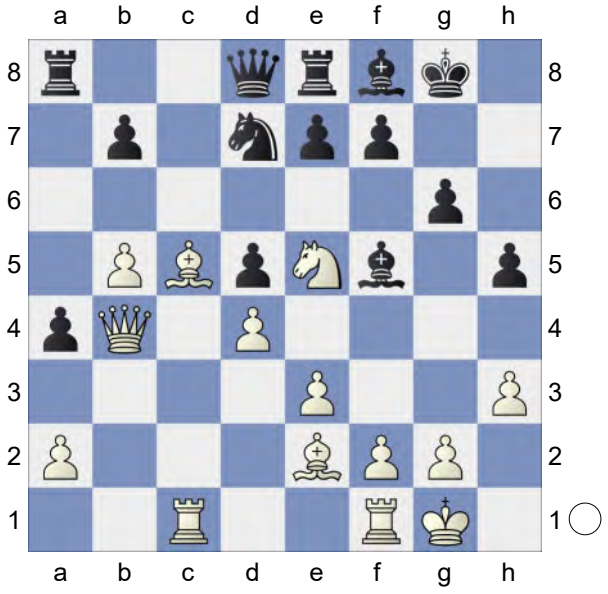
11.Qxd2 cxd5

[11...Qxd5 looks sharper. 12.Bc4 Qd6 13.0-0 cxb5 14.Bxb5 Na6]

12.Be2 Nd7 13.0-0 Nf6 14.Ba3 Re8 15.Qb2 Nd7



16.Qb3 Nb6 17.h3 h5 18.Bc5 a4 Black is on the road to losing. **19.Qb4 Bf8 20.Ne5 Nd7**



21.b6 0x0.0023119be9f4dp-1022s more active pieces. **21...Nxc5** 1.31/21

[⌓21...Bg7 0.99/20]

22.dxc5± Strongly threatening c6.

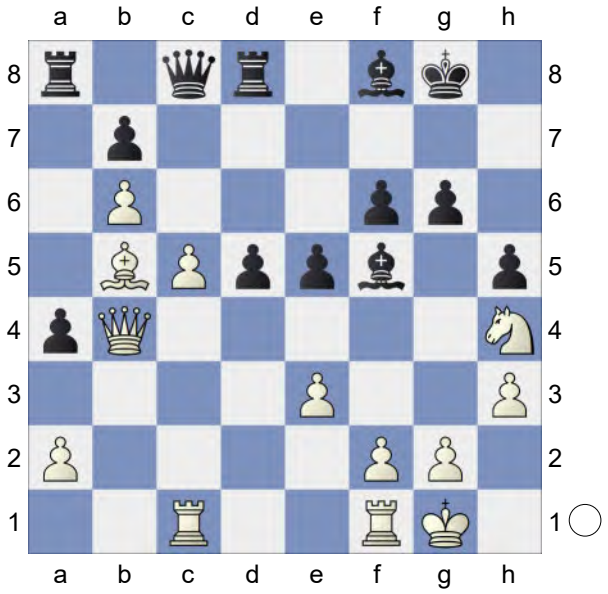
[Much less strong is 22.Qxc5?! f6±]

22...f6 2.16/20

[22...Bg7± 1.19/19]

23.Nf3+- e5 24.Nh4 Qc8 25.Bb5 Rd8 3.39/19

[⌓25...Bd7 2.25/20 26.Nxg6 Bxb5]



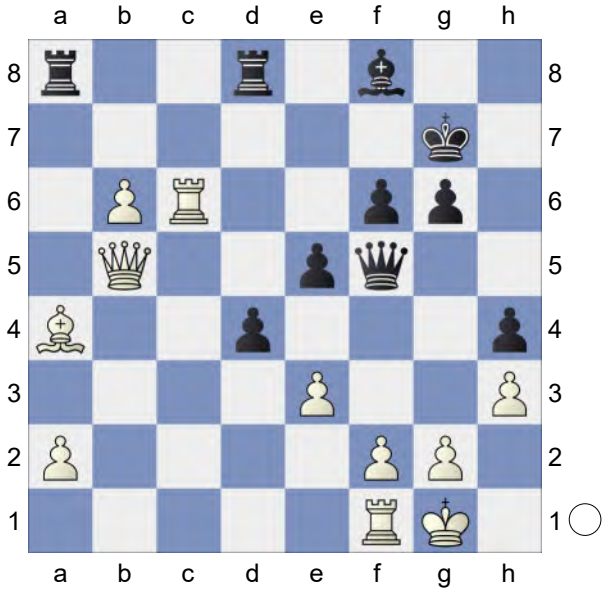
26.Bxa4 Kg7 3.91/20

[⌓26...Bd7 2.53/19 27.Bxd7 Rxd7 28.Nxg6 Rg7]

27.Nxf5+ Qxf5 28.Qb5 h4 3.98/19

[⌓28...Qe4 2.58/18]

29.c6 bxc6 30.Rxc6 d4

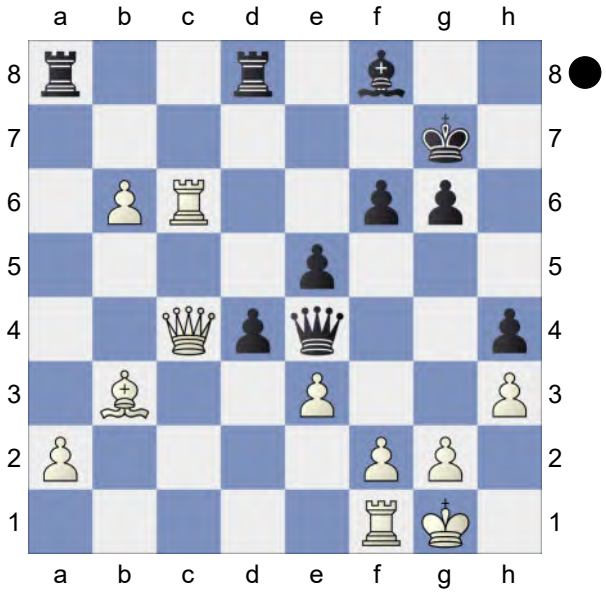


31.Bb3 Qe4? 6.61/22

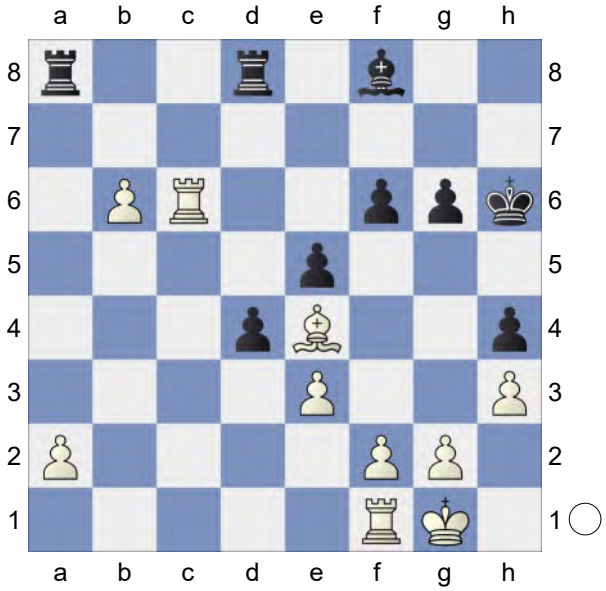
[31...e4 3.31/18 32.Qc4 Kh6

33.exd4 Rab8 34.Qc1+ Qg5]

32.Qc4

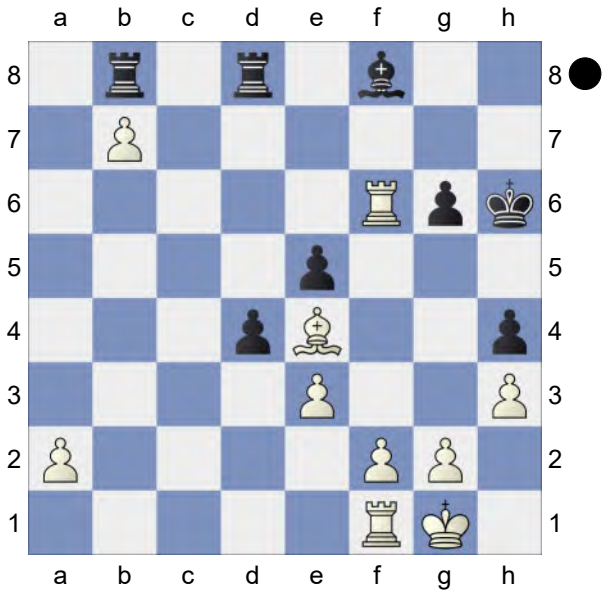


Threatening mate with Qg8+. White is clearly winning. **32...Kh6 33.Bc2 Qd5 34.Qxd5 Rxd5 35.Be4 Rdd8**



36.b7 Rab8 37.Rxf6

(Diagram)

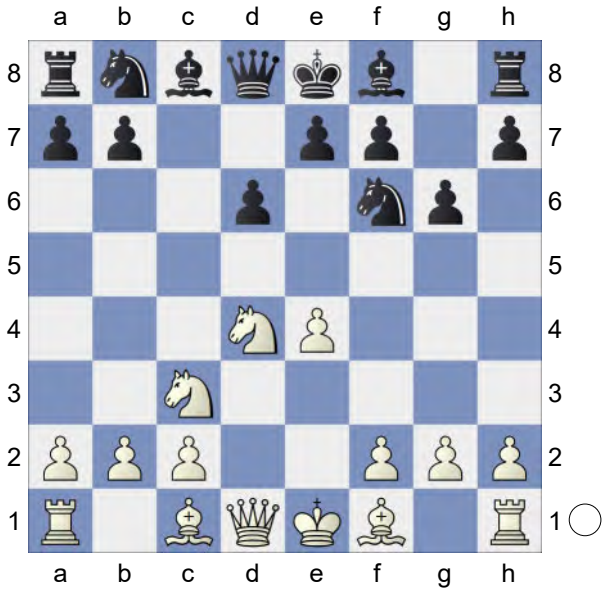


Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.39

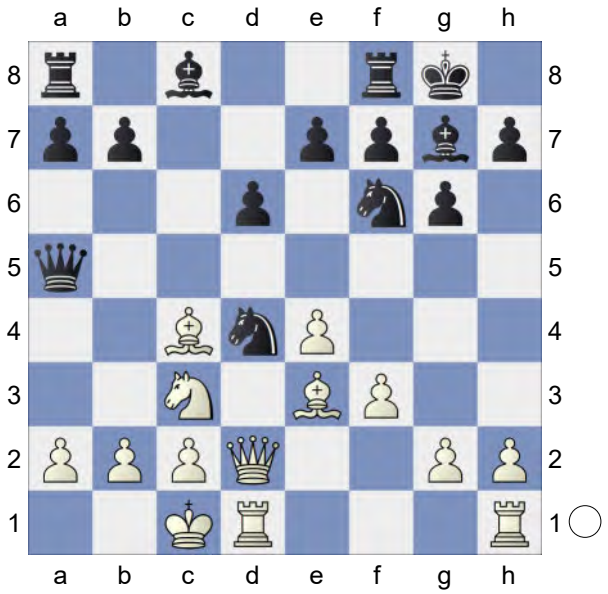
1-0

57 **B77**
□ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
■ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
Tata Steel Challengers (9.1) 28.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

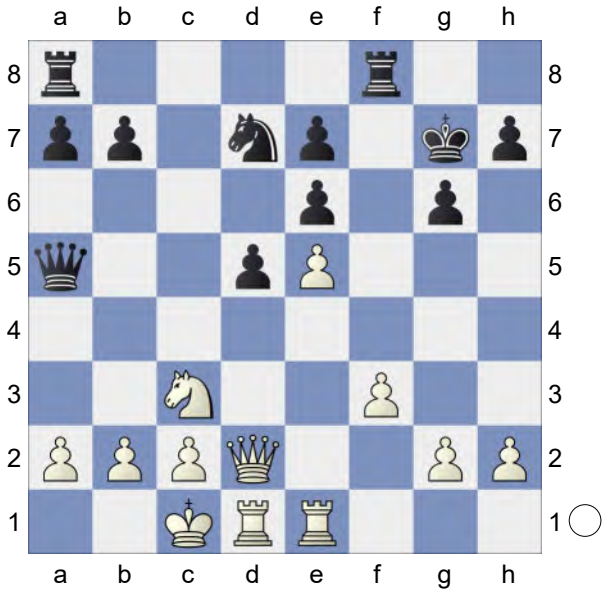
B77: Sicilian Dragon: Yugoslav Attack, 9 Bc4 sidelines **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 g6**



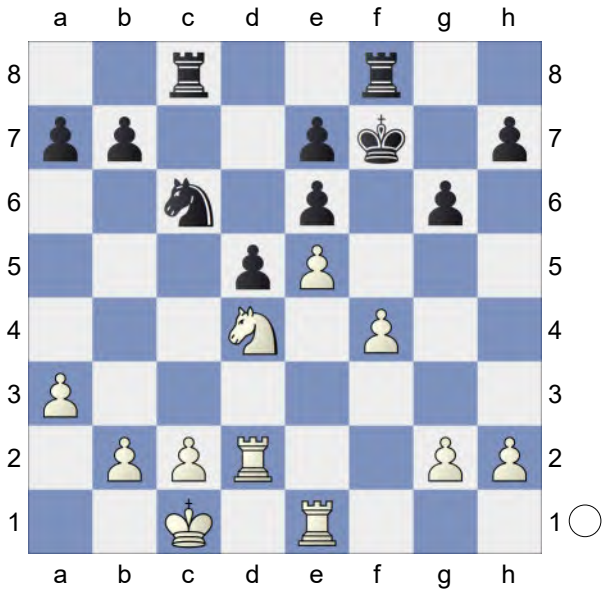
6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4 Qa5 10.0-0-0 Nxd4



11.Bxd4 Be6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Rhe1 Nd7 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.e5 White has an edge. **15...d5**

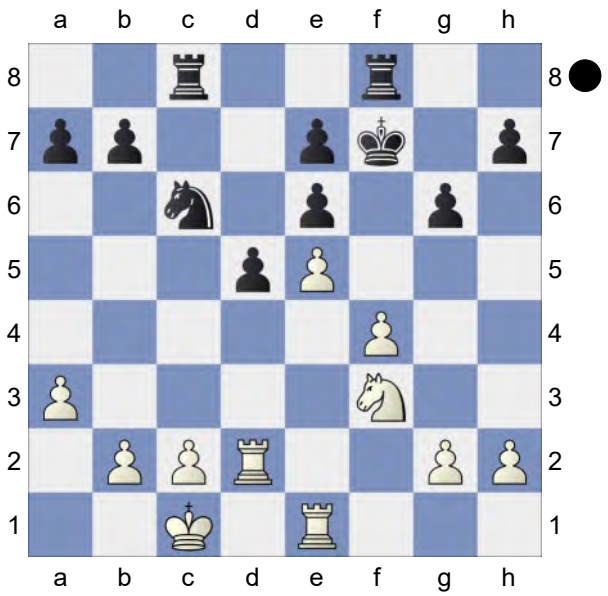


16.a3 Rac8 17.Ne2 Qxd2+ 18.Rxd2 Nb8 0.37/19
[Much less strong is 18...Nxe5 19.Nd4 Kf6 20.f4±]
[18...Rf5= 0.00/20]
19.Nd4± Kf7 20.f4 Nc6

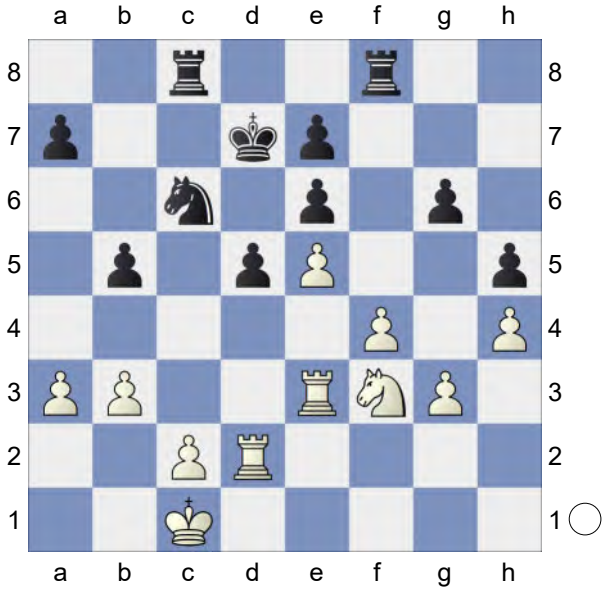


21.Nf3

(Diagram)

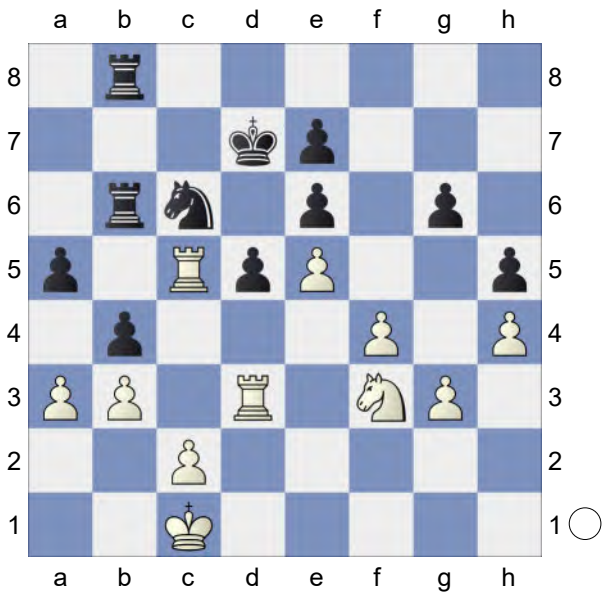


Strongly threatening Ng5+. **21...h6**
Against Ng5+ **22.h4 Ke8 23.g3 Kd7**
24.Re3 h5N
[24...b5]
25.b3 b5

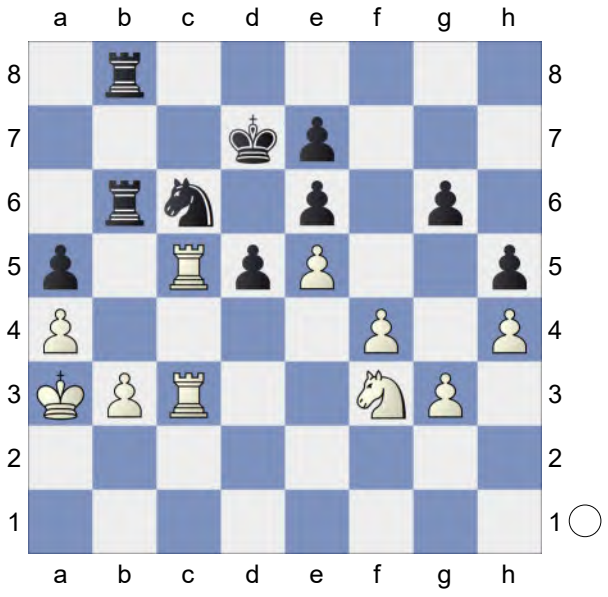


26.Kb2 Rb8 27.Rc3 a5 28.Rc5 Rb6 0.69/22
[28...Rfc8 0.36/19 is superior.]
29.Rd3 &Bianco is more active.
29...Rfb8 30.Kc1 0.20/25
[30.Rd1± 0.54/21]
30...b4

(Diagram)

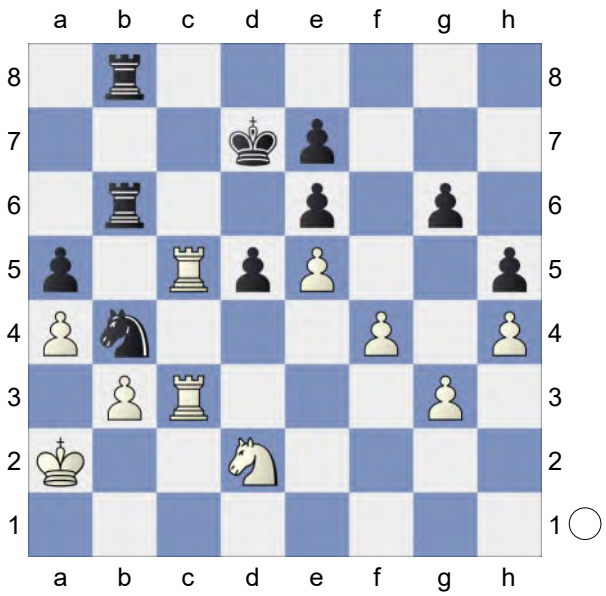


31.a4 Ra8 32.c4 0.01/23
[32.Nd2± 0.32/23]
32...bxc3!= The position is equal.
33.Rdxc3 Rab8! 34.Kb2 R8b7!
[34...d4 35.Rd3±]
35.Ka3 Rb8!
[Resist 35...d4 36.Rd3±]

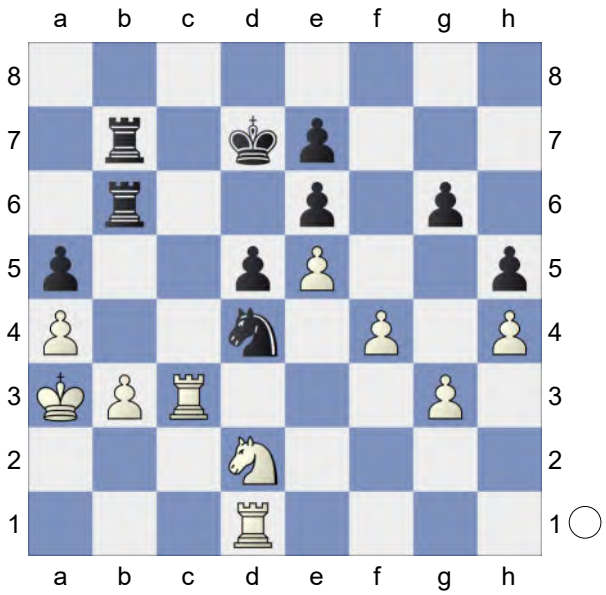


36.Nd2 R8b7 37.Kb2 Rb8 38.Kc2 Nd4+ 39.Kb2 Nc6 40.Ka2 Nb4+

(Diagram)

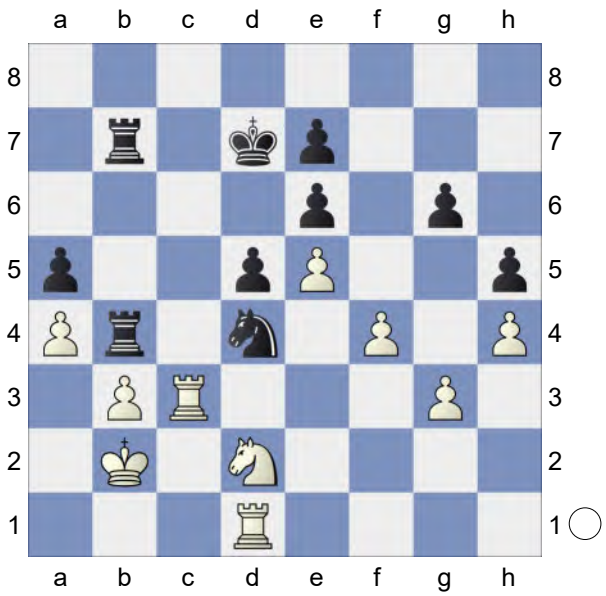


41.Ka3 Nc6 42.Rf3 R8b7 43.Rc1 Rc7 44.Rfc3 Rcb7 45.Rd1 Nd4

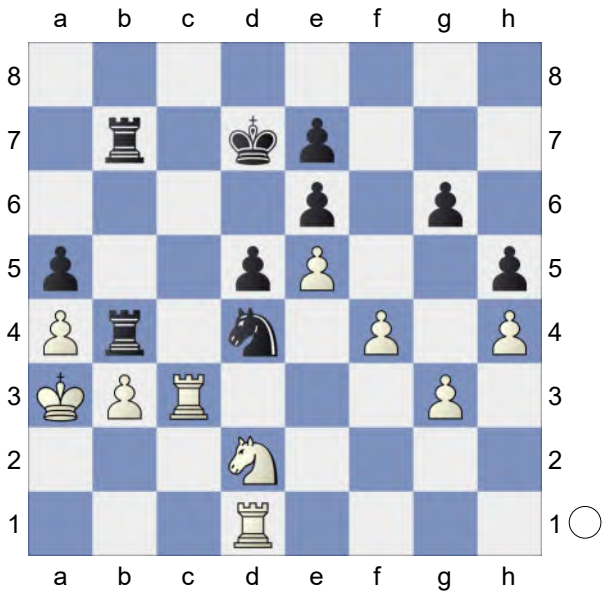


46.Kb2 Rb4

(Diagram)

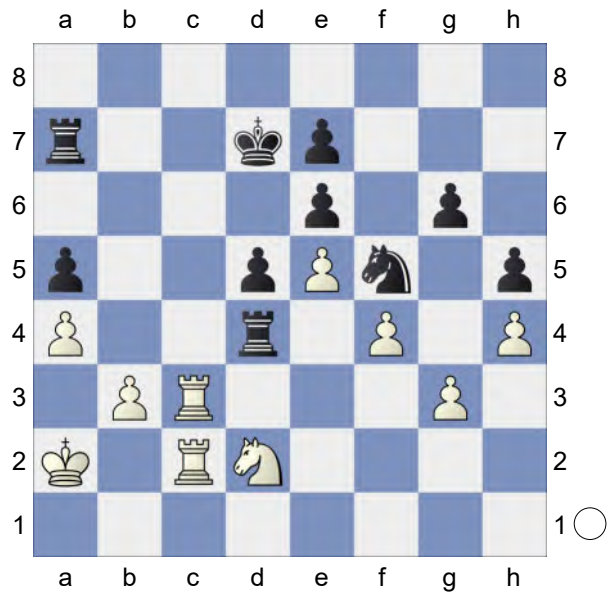


aiming for ...Rxa4. **47.Ka2 Rb8 48.Ka3 R8b7 49.Ka2 Rb8 50.Ka3 R8b7**

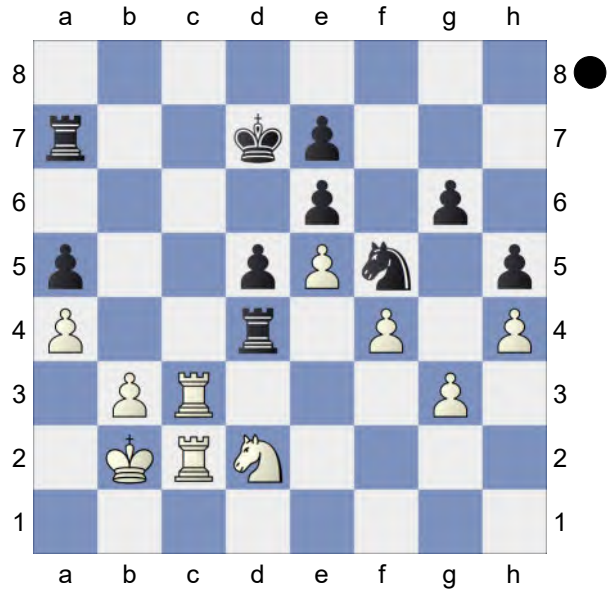


51.Re1 Nf5 52.Rec1 Rd4 53.R1c2 Ra7 54.Kb2 Rb7 Threatens to win with ...Rxa4. **55.Ka2 Ra7**

(Diagram)



56.Kb2 Rb7 57.Ka3 Ra7 58.Kb2

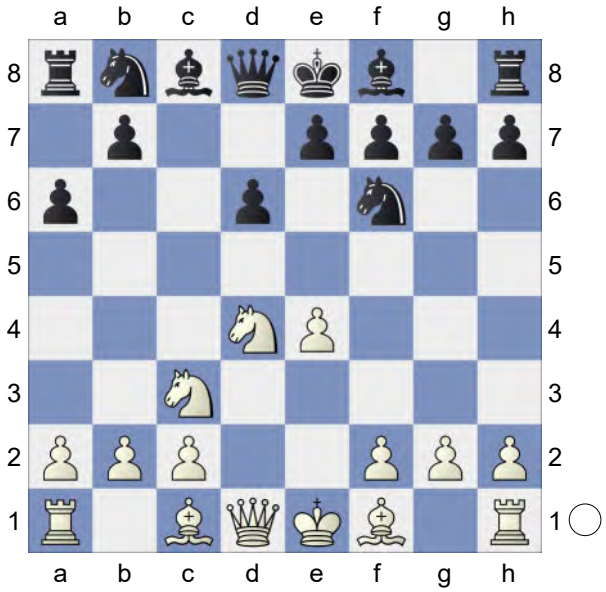


Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

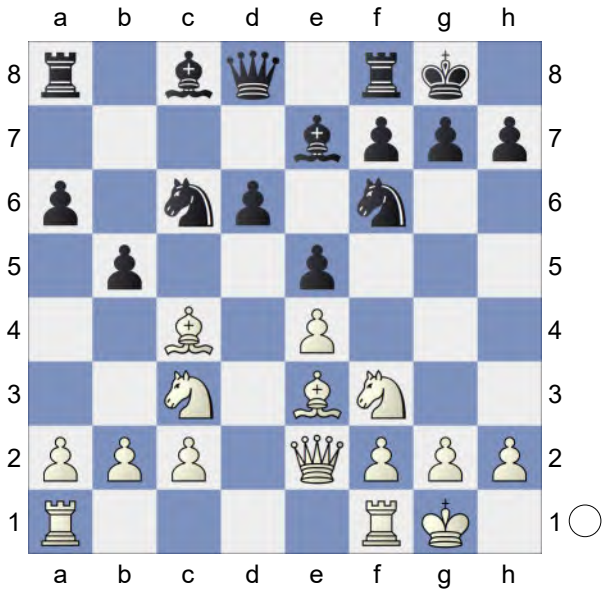
½-½

58 **B90**
□ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
■ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
Tata Steel Challengers (9.2) 28.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B90: Sicilian Najdorf: Unusual White 6th moves, 6 Be3 Ng4 and 6 Be3 e5 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6**

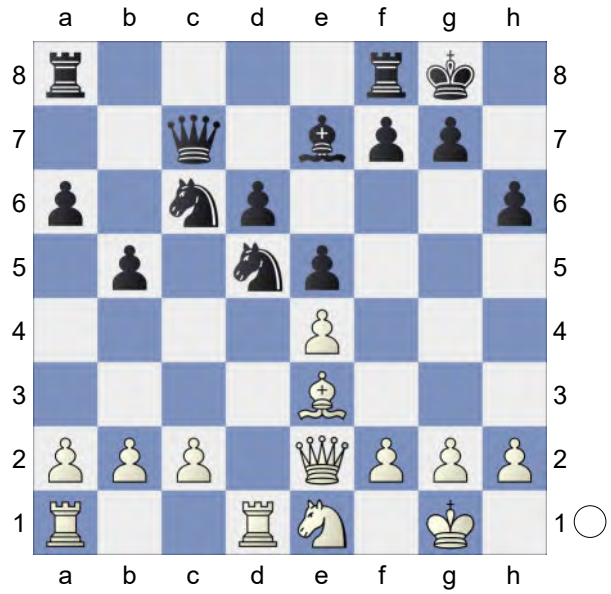


6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6
[9...Be6 10.Bb3 Nc6 11.Qe2 Na5 12.Rfd1 Qc7 13.Bg5 Rac8 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Rac1 Nxb3 16.axb3 Qc6 17.Nd5 Bd8 18.c4 f5 19.exf5 Bxf5 20.h3 Qe8 21.Rc3 Qg6 22.Kh2 Kh8 23.b4 Be6 24.Re3 9.Nd2 a5/ 14.Qc2 Ngf6 1 (2732)-Grankin, F (2733) 5. Bd2 - Main line 10.Nc3 g5 11.Bc1 2011 CBM 34 [FS 12/1979 p311] ½-½]
10.Qe2 b5N
[10...Na5 11.Bb3 Nxb3 12.axb3 h6 13.Rfd1 Qe8 *(13...Qc7 14.Nd2 Rb8 15.f3 Be6 16.Nf1 Rbd8 17.Qf2 Qc6 18.Ra5 Rc8 19.Ng3 Bd8 20.Raa1 Re8 21.Rd2 d5 22.exd5 Nxd5 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 24.Nf5 Qe6 25.g4 Bc7 26.Rad1 Bc6 27.Bc5 f6 28.Qe3* Winkler,C (2200)-Darmaeva,N (2242) corr 1998 ZUS C73 [Stockfish15(10sek.Zug)(CB16 14 CPU)] ½-½ (58) *h5 29.h3 hxg4 30.hxg4 Rcd8 31.c4 Rxd2 32.Rxd2 e4 33.f4 Bd7 34.Qg3 Bc8 35.Ne3 Qf7 36.Nd5 Be6 37.Nxc7 Qxc7 38.Bd4 Qa5 39.Re2 Bc8 40.f5 Qd8 41.Qe3 Kf7 42.Rd2 Kg8 43.Bb6* Sutton,A (2200)-Carroll,J (2242) corr ENG 1998 UltraCorr3a [Michael Blake] ½-½ (58) *)* 14.Nd2 Be6 15.Nc4 Qc6 16.Nb6 Rad8 17.Qd3 Rfe8 18.Ra5 Nd7 19.Nxd7 Qxd7 20.h3 Rf8 21.Qe2 Qc7 22.Raa1 Kh8 23.Kh1 Kg8 24.Kg1 Kh8 25.Kh1 Cabezas Ayala,I (2231)-Portero Rubio, M (2122) Roquetas de Mar 2025 ½-½]

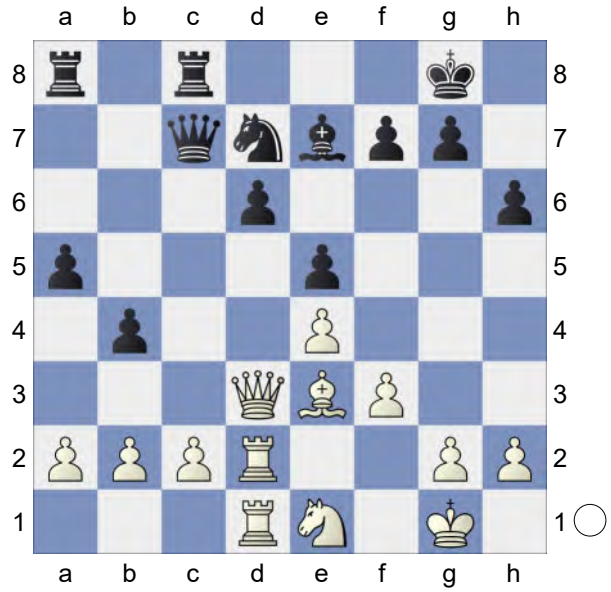


11.Bb3 Be6 12.Rfd1 h6 White is slightly better. **13.Ne1** -0.08/19
[13.Nd5± 0.43/19]
13...Qc7 0.32/20
[13...Na5= -0.08/19]

14.Nd5± Bxd5 15.Bxd5 Nxd5

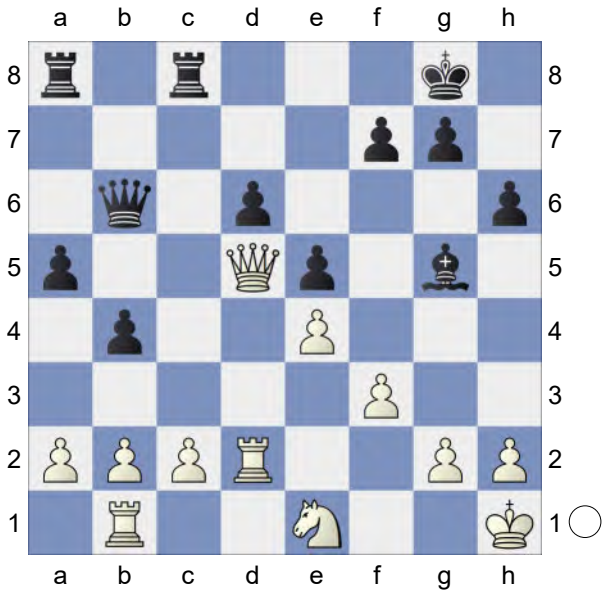


16.Rxd5 Nb8 17.f3 Nd7 18.Rad1 b4 19.R5d2 Rfc8 20.Qd3 a5



21.Rc1 Nc5 22.Qd5 Na4 23.Rb1 Nb6 24.Bxb6 Qxb6+ 25.Kh1 Bg5

(Diagram)



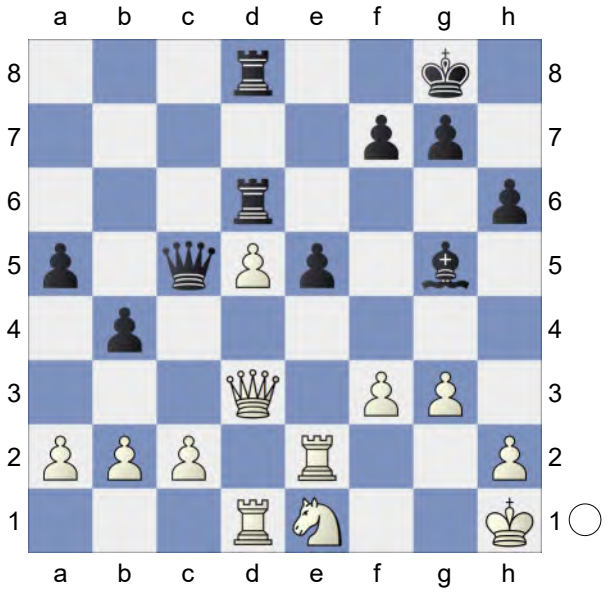
26.Re2 Rc6 27.Qd3 Qc5 28.g3 Rd8 29.Rd1 d5 0.01/22

[29...h5∓ -0.53/20]

30.exd5= The position is equal.

30...Rcd6

[30...Bf6 is interesting. 31.b3 g6 32.dxc6 Rxd3 33.Nxd3 Qxc6 34.Kg2 Kg7]

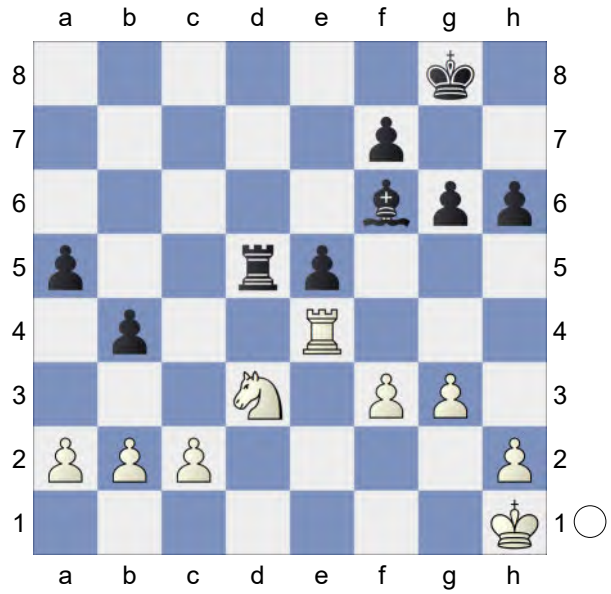


31.Qe4 Rxd5 32.Rxd5

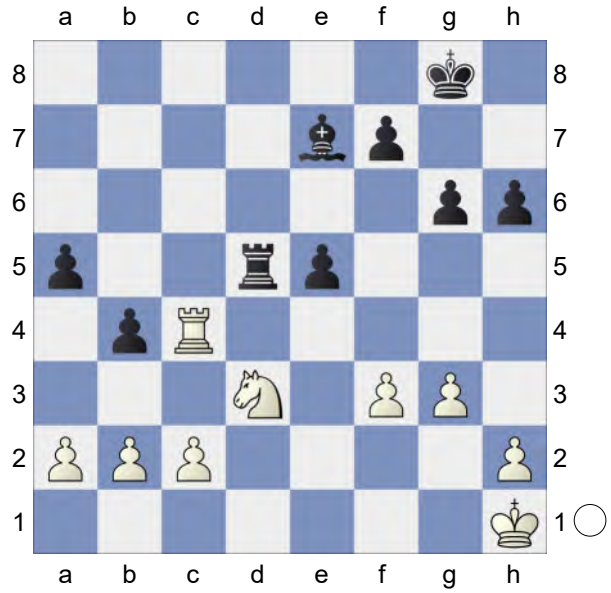
[32.Rd3 keeps more tension. Bf6 33.Kg2 h5 34.Rxd5 Rxd5 35.Nd3]

32...Qxd5 33.Qxd5 Rxd5 34.Nd3 Bf6!

35.Re4 g6



36.Rc4 Be7

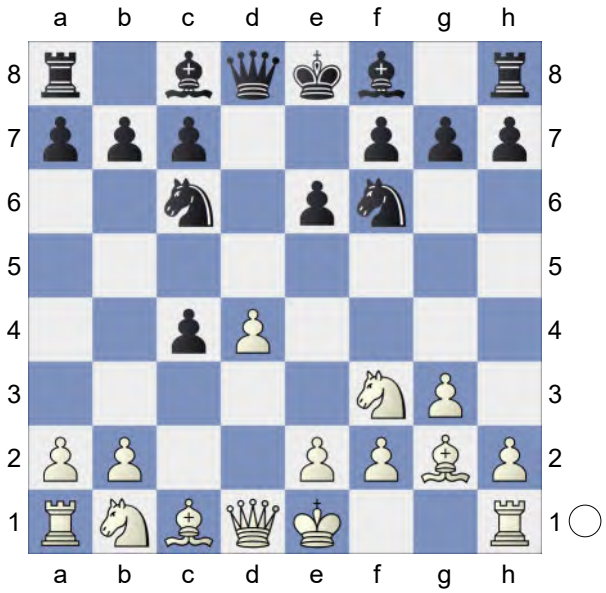


Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.10 (very precise)

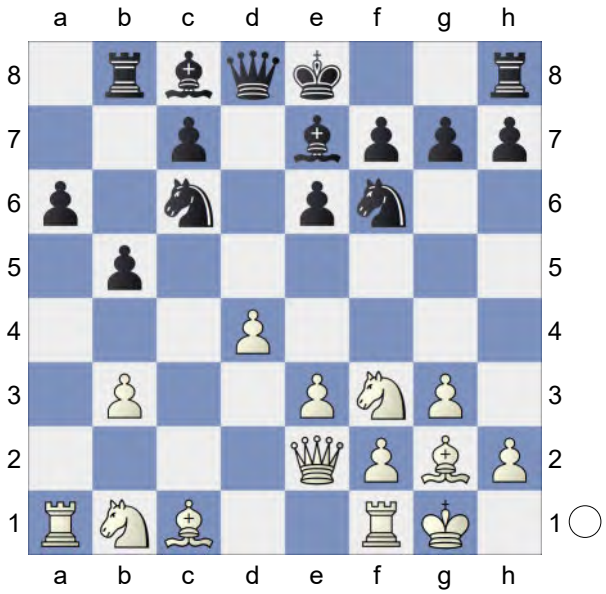
½-½

59 **E04**
□ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
■ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
Tata Steel Challengers (9.3) 28.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

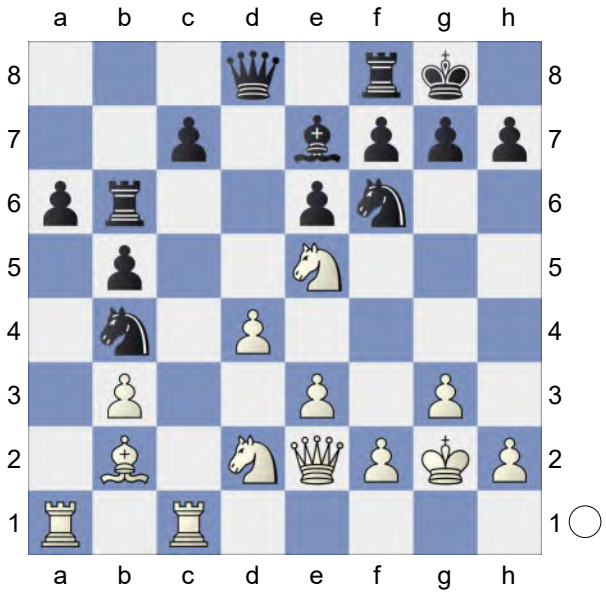
E04: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3 **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 Nc6**



6.0-0 Rb8 7.e3 Be7 8.Qe2 b5 9.b3 cxb3 The position is equal. **10.axb3 a6**

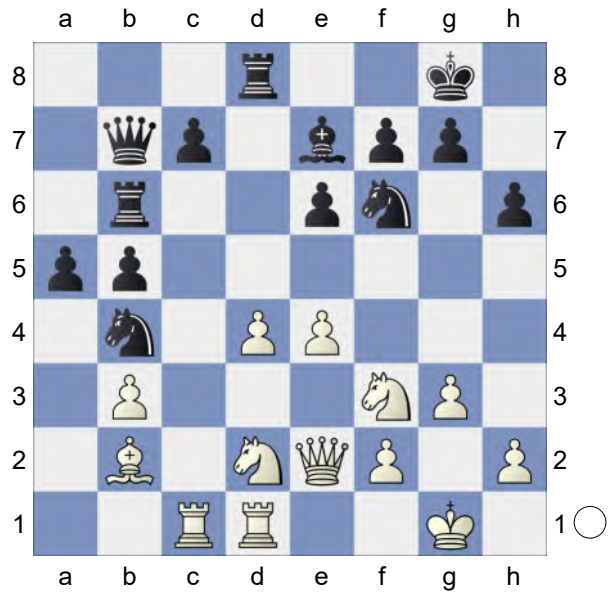


11.Bb2 0-0 12.Rc1 Bb7 13.Nbd2 Nb4 14.Ne5 Bxg2 15.Kxg2 Rb6

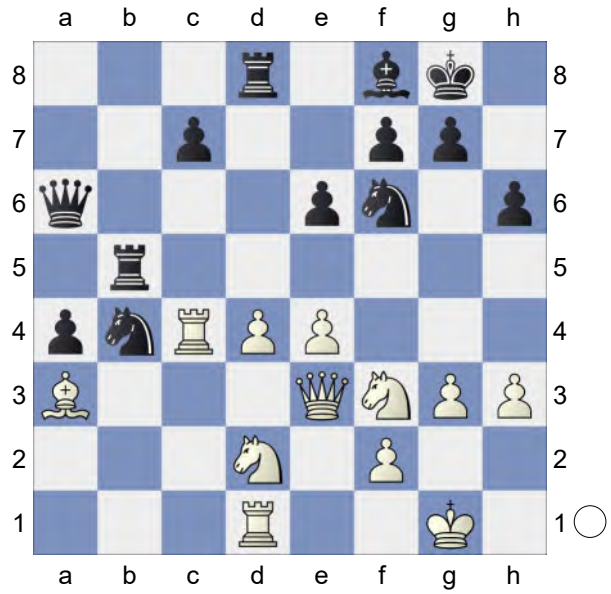


16.e4N
[16.Kg1 Nd7 17.Ne4 f6 18.Nf3 e5 19.dxe5 fxe5 20.Rd1 Qc8 21.Rac1 c5 22.Ne1 Nf6 23.Nxf6+ Bxf6 24.Ba3 Qe6 25.Rxc5 Qxb3 26.Bxb4 Qxb4 27.Nd3 Qa3 28.Qc2 Rd6 29.Rc3 Qa4 30.Qxa4 bxa4 Erigaisi, A (2563)-Adhiban,B (2654) Moscow 2020 CBM 196 [Schandorff, Lars] 0-1 (60) 31.e4 Rfd8 32.Kf1 Rd4 33.f3 Be7 34.Ke2 Bb4 35.Rc2 a5 36.Nf2 Rxd1 37.Nxd1 a3 38.Nc3 Bc5 39.Nd5 Bd4 40.Ra2 Bb2 41.Kd3 Kf7 42.Kc4 Rc8+ 43.Kb5 Rc2 44.Nb6 Rxh2 45.Nc4 Rh3 Erigaisi,A (2701)-Grandelius,N (2660) Malmoe 156/103 2023 [Arsovic, Goran] 0-1 (60) 46.Nxa3 Bxa3 47.Rxa3 Rxg3 48.Kc4 h5 49.Kd5 h4 50.Rxa5 h3 51.Ra8 Rxf3 52.Kxe5 g5 53.Kd5 g4 54.Rh8 Rf1 55.e5 Rd1+ 56.Ke4 g3 57.Rh7+ Ke8 58.Rh8+ Kd7 59.Rh7+ Kc6 60.Rh6+ Kc5 6.Na3 cd4 7.cd4 Bd7 (2563)-Brachtel,R (2654) Frankfurt 2020 Bird-Defence [Reppmann (Re) und Rümmele (Rü)] 0-1 (60)]
16...Qb8 17.Kg1 -0.61/19

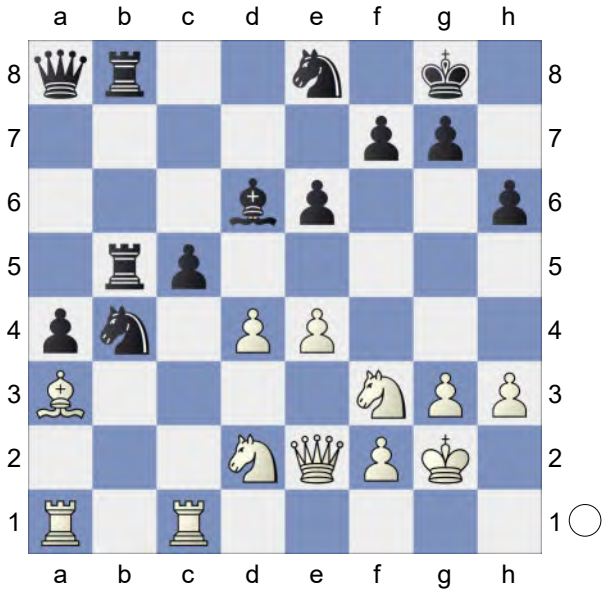
[17.g4= -0.28/18]
17...Qb7 18.Rd1 -0.93/18
[18.g4∓ -0.50/19 might be stronger.]
18...Rd8 19.Rac1 Prevents Nc2. **19...a5 20.Nef3 h6**



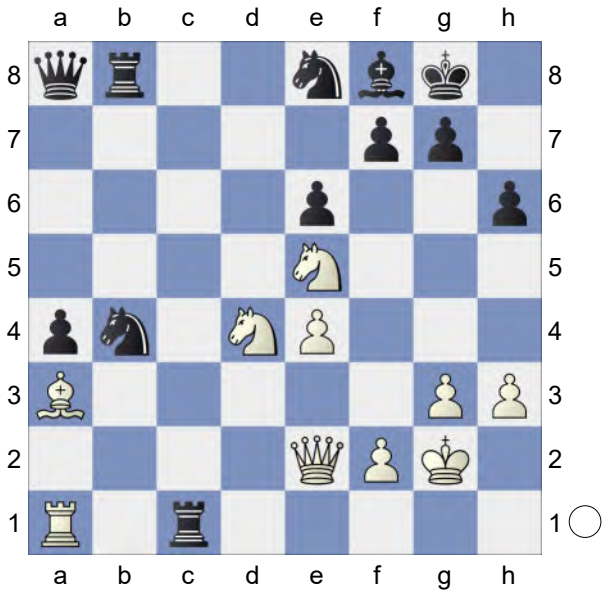
21.h3 a4 &Nero is more active. **22.bxa4 bxa4 23.Ba3 Bf8** -0.91/19
[⌓23...Nc6 -1.29/19 24.Bxe7 Nxe7]
24.Rc4 Qa6 -0.69/18
[24...Nd7∓ -1.05/19]
25.Qe3 Rb5



26.Rdc1 -1.14/19
[⌓26.Ra1 -0.82/17]
26...Ne8 -0.64/20
[26...c5∓ -1.14/19]
27.Kg2 Qa8 28.Ra1 Bd6 29.Rcc1 Rdb8 30.Qe2 c5



31.Nc4 -0.89/22
[White should play 31.Qd1∓ -0.39/20]
31...Bf8 32.Bb2 cxd4 33.Nxd4 R5b7 34.Ba3 Rc7 35.Ne5 Rxc1 -0.87/21
[⌓35...Bd6 -1.22/21 36.Nef3 Rxc1 37.Rxc1 Rb6]



36.Rxc1∓ Nf6 37.f3 -1.79/19
[37.Rc4∓ -1.01/20 is a better

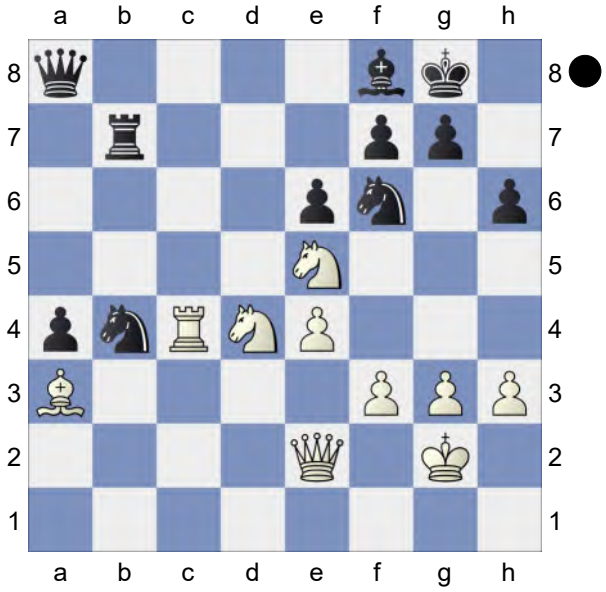
defense.]

37...Rb7 -1.01/20

[37...Bd6-+ -1.79/19 38.Nc4 Bc5]

38.Rc4 -1.72/21

[38.Qc4∓ -1.01/20]

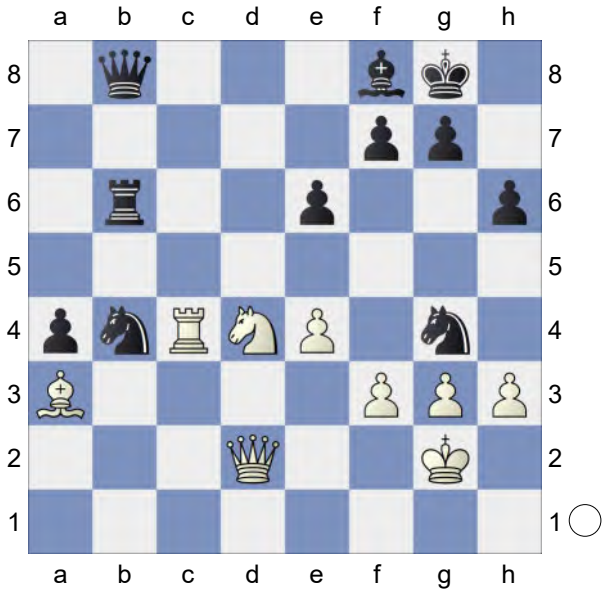


38...Rb6 -1.23/21

[38...Nc6!-+ -1.72/21 39.Nexc6 *(39.Rxc6 Bxa3)* 39...Bxa3]

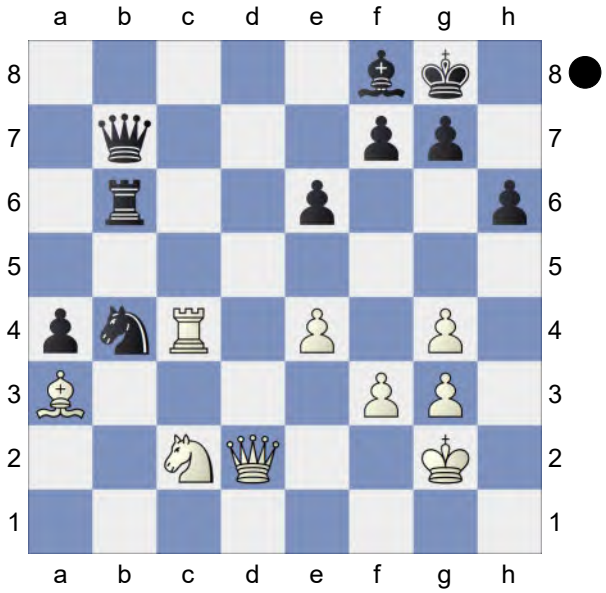
39.Qd2 Qb8 40.Ng4 Nxg4 -0.97/21

[Better is 40...Nh5 -1.34/21 41.f4 Qb7]



41.hxg4 Qb7 White must now prevent .. .Be7. **42.Nc2** -1.91/24

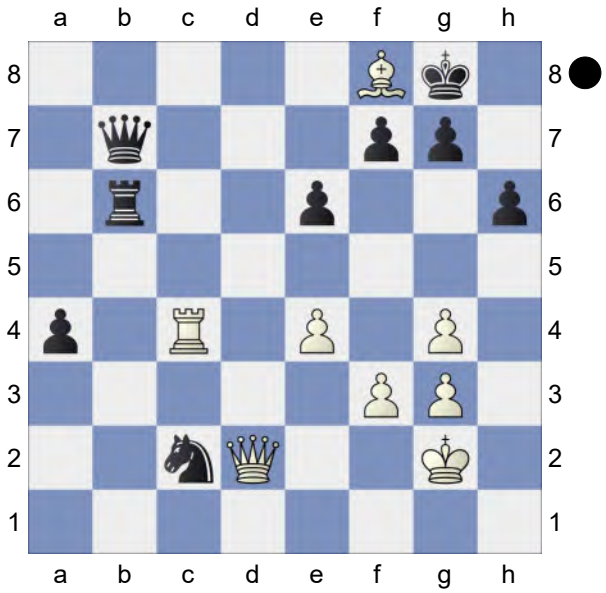
[42.g5∓ -0.76/22]



42...Nxc2 -1.45/25

[42...Rc6!-+ -1.91/24 43.Rxb4 Bxb4 44.Nxb4 Rc4]

43.Bxf8

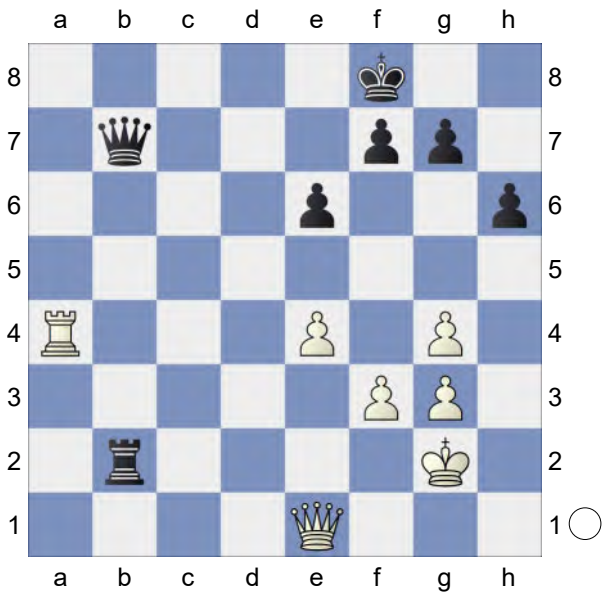


Ne1+ 44.Qxe1 Hoping for Qc3!

44...Kxf8 45.Rxa4 Endgame KQR-KQR

45...Rb2+

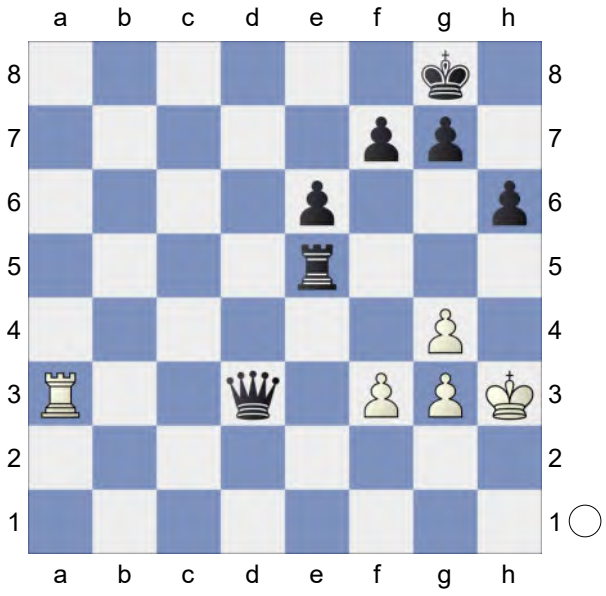
(Diagram)



46.Kh3 Kg8 47.Ra3 Qb5 48.e5 Re2 -0.85/21

[48...g5-+ -1.72/21 and Black stays clearly on top. 49.Rc3 Re2]

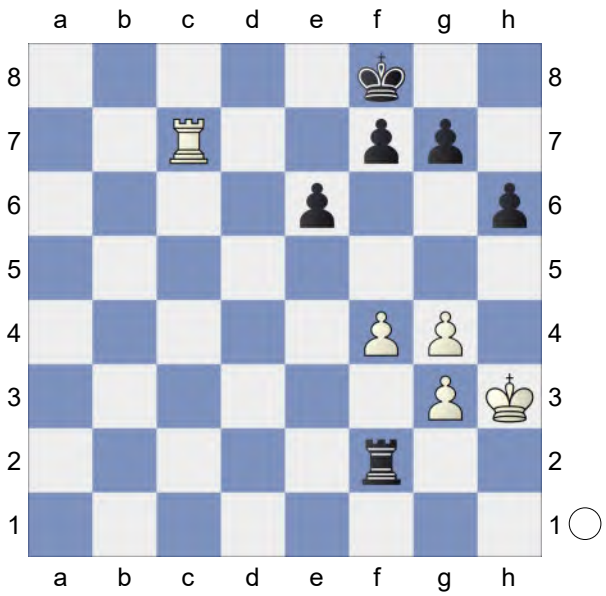
49.Qc3 Rxe5 (→ ...Qf1+) **50.Qd3** Inhibits Qf1+. **50...Qxd3**



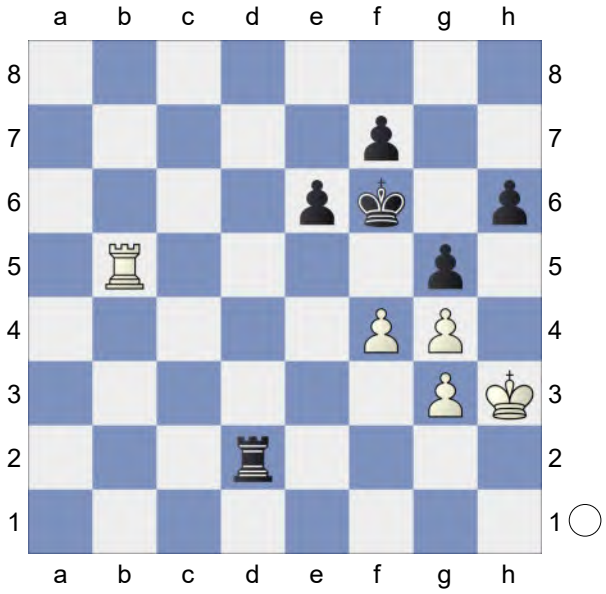
51.Rxd3 KR-KR **51...Re2 52.f4 Rf2 53.Rd7 Kf8 54.Ra7 Rb2 55.Rc7 Rf2** 0.01/22

[55...Rd2∓ -0.87/24]

(Diagram)

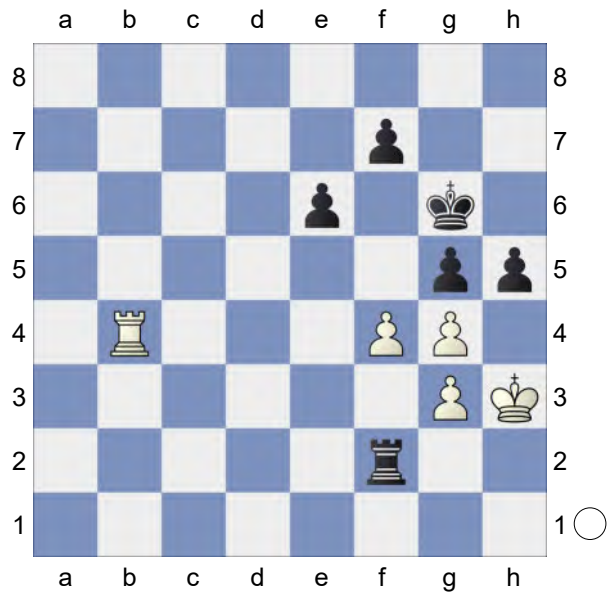


56.Ra7!= g6 57.Rb7 Kg7 58.Rb5 Rd2 59.Ra5 Kf6 60.Rb5 g5

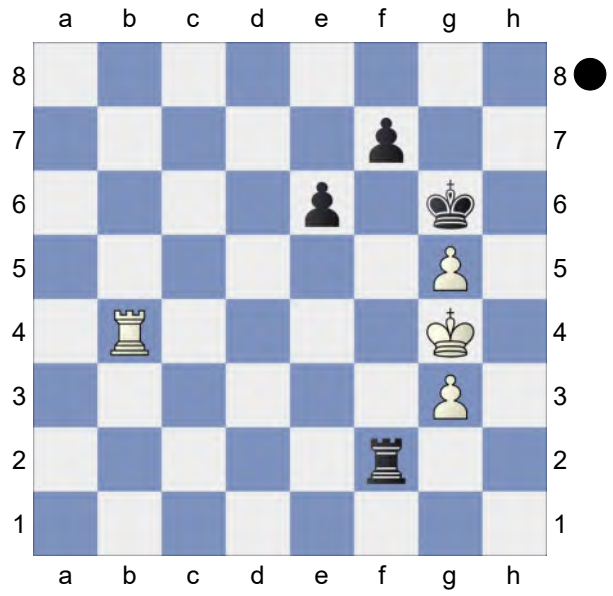


61.Rb4 Rf2 62.Ra4 Re2 63.Rb4 Kg6 64.Ra4 Rf2 65.Rb4 h5

(Diagram)

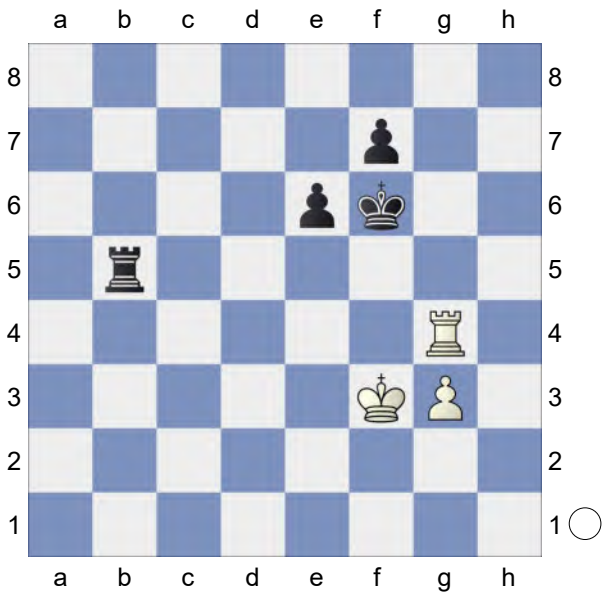


66.fxg5 hxg4+!
[66...Kxg5?! 67.Rb5+ f5 68.gxf5=]
67.Kxg4

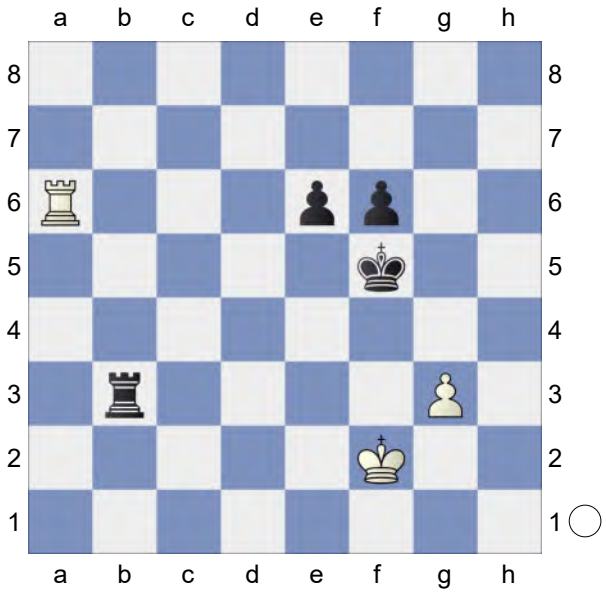


Rf5! 68.Ra4 Rxg5+ 69.Kf3 Rb5 70.Rg4+ Kf6

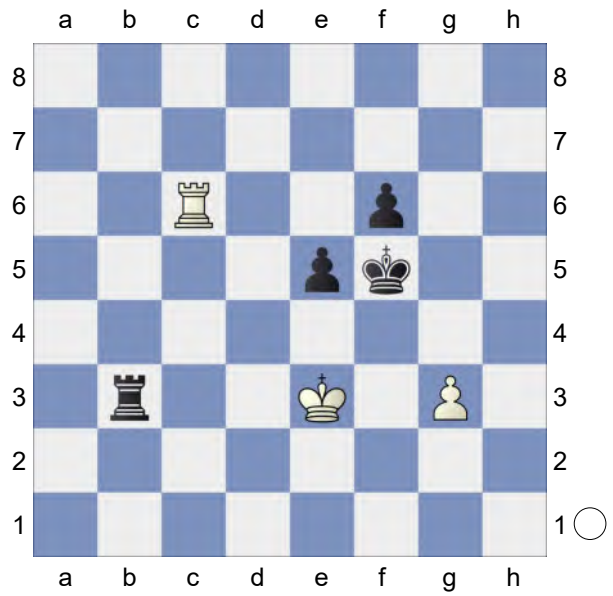
(Diagram)



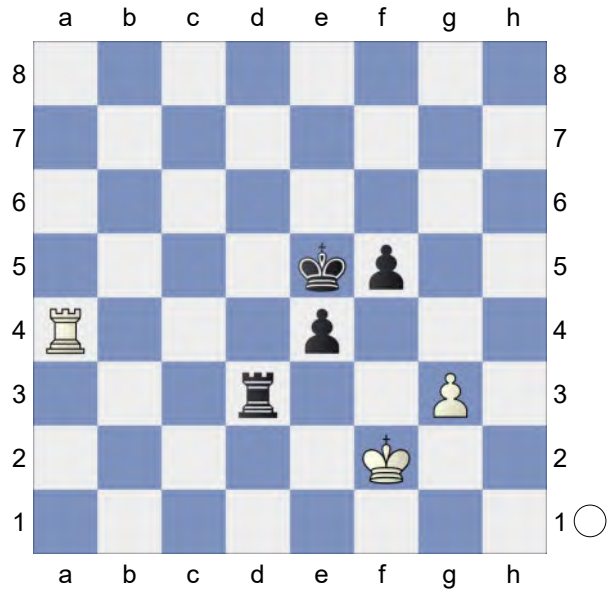
71.Ra4
[71.Rf4+ Rf5 72.Ke4 Rxf4+ 73.gxf4 Ke7-+]
71...Rb3+ 72.Kf2 Kg5
[Stronger than 72...e5 73.Ra2∓]
73.Ra7 Kg6 74.Ra5 f6 75.Ra6 Kf5



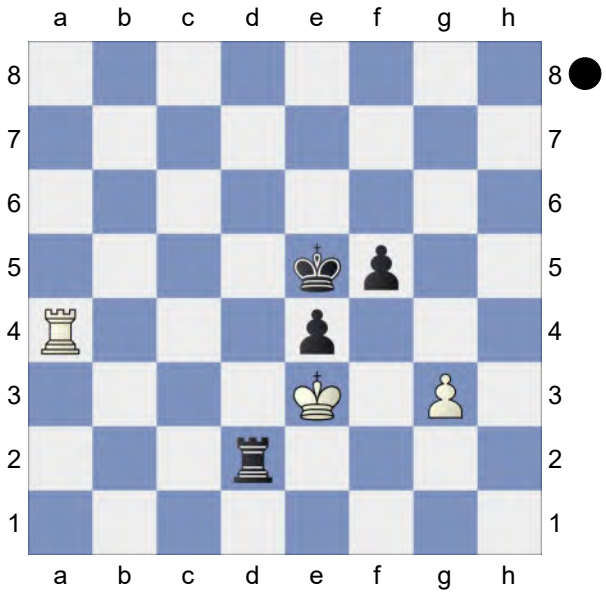
76.Ra8 Rd3
[Inferior is 76...e5 77.Ra5∓]
77.Ra4 e5 78.Ra6 Rb3 79.Rc6 Rb2+ 80.Ke3 Rb3+ 0.01/26
[Black should try 80...Rb8∓ -1.01/25 81.Rc4 Rb3+ 82.Kf2 Kg5]



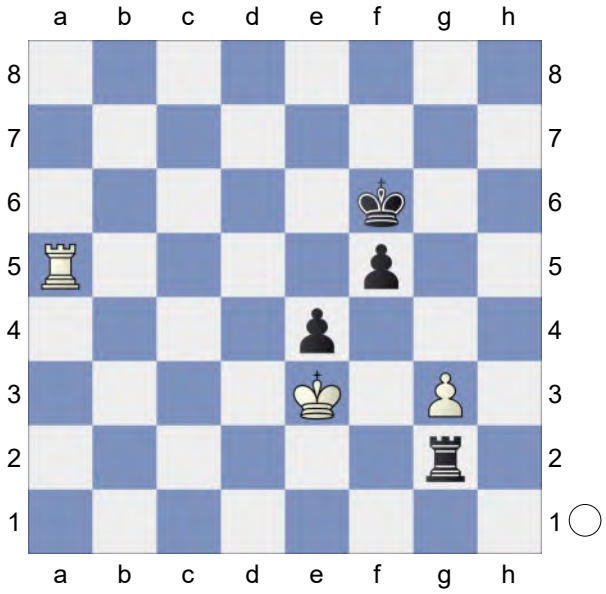
81.Kf2! e4 -0.64/27
[81...Rb4∓ -1.15/24 82.Ke3 Ra4]
82.Rc4 Rf3+ 83.Kg2 Ke5 84.Ra4 Rd3 85.Kf2 f5 -0.46/23
[85...Kf5∓ -0.81/26 86.Ra8 Rf3+ 87.Kg2 Rd3]



86.Ra5+ -0.99/27
[86.Ra8∓ -0.46/23]
86...Rd5∓ 87.Ra4? -4.20/26
[87.Ra2∓ -0.97/25 is more resistant.]
87...Rd2+-+ 88.Ke3? -6.90/26
[88.Kf1 -2.52/26]



88...Rg2! 89.Ra5+ Kf6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) / Black=0.16 (very precise)
0-1

60 **B50**
□ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
■ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
Tata Steel Challengers (9.4) 28.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3**

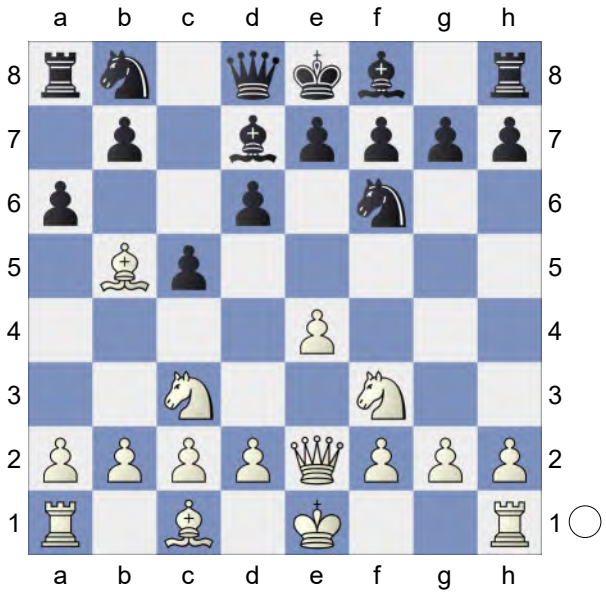
[3.d3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.0-0 e5 7.Be3 Nge7 8.c4 0-0 9.Qd2 f5 10.Nc3 Nd4 11.Nh4 f4 12.gxf4 Nec6 13.Nf3 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 exf4 15.Bxf4 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Qf6 17.Bxd6 Qxd6 Asante,D (1908)-Ortega Amarelle,M (2453) Budapest 2024 0-1]

3...Nf6 4.Bb5+N

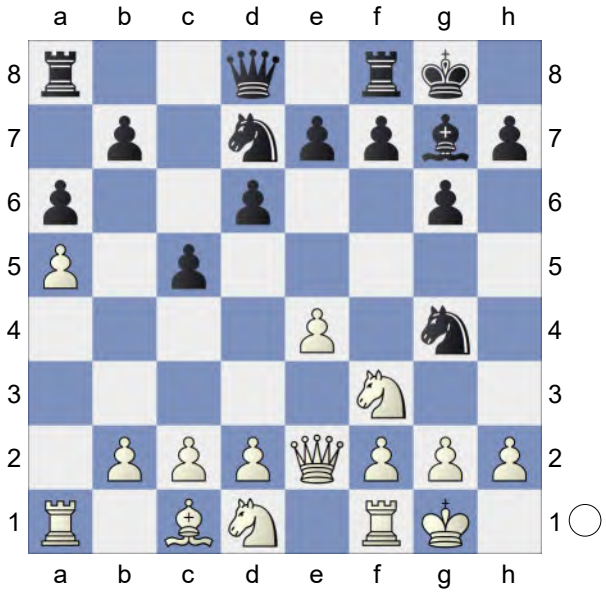
[4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d3 Nc6 8.Re1 e5 9.a3 Nd4 10.h3 h6 11.Nd2 Kh7 12.b4 b6 13.Bb2 Be6 14.Nd5 Rc8 15.c3 Nc6 16.c4 Nd4 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.a4 Nxd5 Mamedov,R (2646)-Sarana,A (2668) Chess.com INT 2022 0-1 (45) 19.exd5 Bf5 20.Qb3 a5 21.c5 bxc5 22.b5 Ra8 23.Nc4 Qe7 24.Qc2 Rfb8 25.Qd2 Qd8 26.Rab1 h5 27.Red1 Bh6 28.Qe1 Bc8 29.b6 Ba6 30.Nxa5 Rxb6 31.Nc6 Qc7 32.Qe2 Re8 33.Qc2 f5 Mendez Fortes,E (2646) -Sivenkov,O (2668) Tilburg 2022 ICCF 2019 [John Watson] 0-1 (45)]

4...Bd7 5.Qe2 a6

(Diagram)

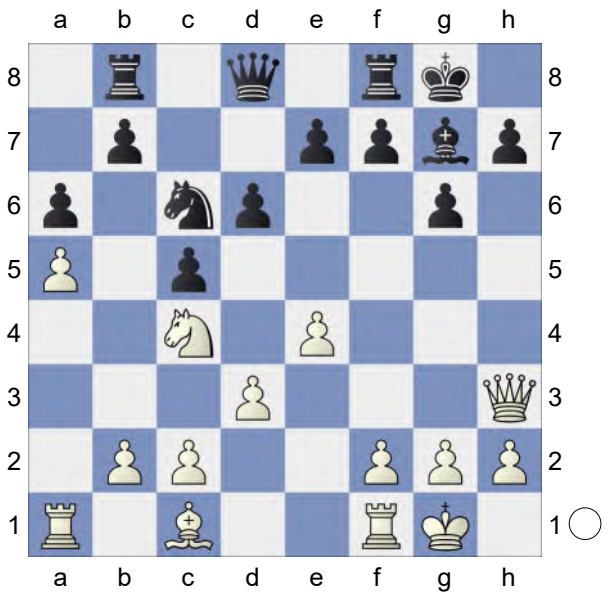


6.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 7.0-0 g6 8.a4 Bg7 9.a5 Ng4 10.Nd1 0-0

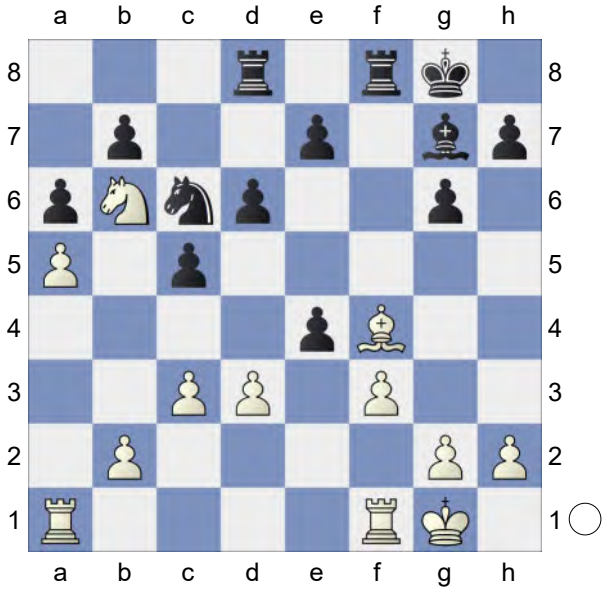


11.d3 Nge5 12.Ne3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Ne5 14.Qh3 Nc6 15.Nc4 Rb8

(Diagram)

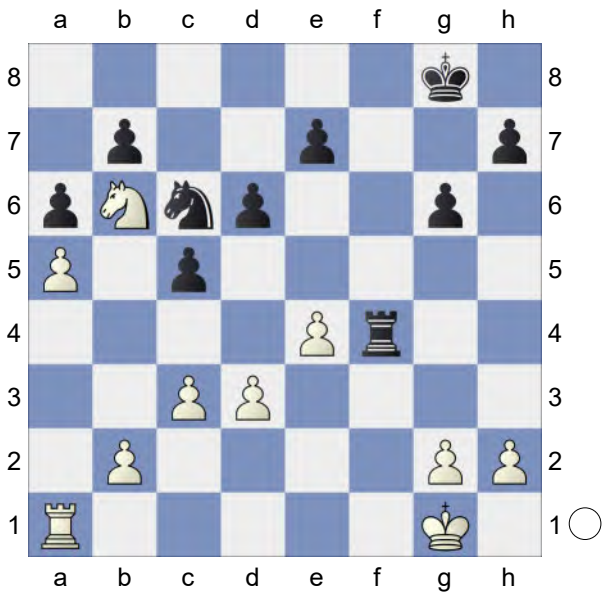


16.c3
[16.Bg5 is more complex. Re8 17.f4 d5 18.exd5 Qxd5 19.f5]
16...Qc8 17.Qxc8 Rbxc8 18.Bf4 f5 19.f3 Rcd8 20.Nb6 fxe4

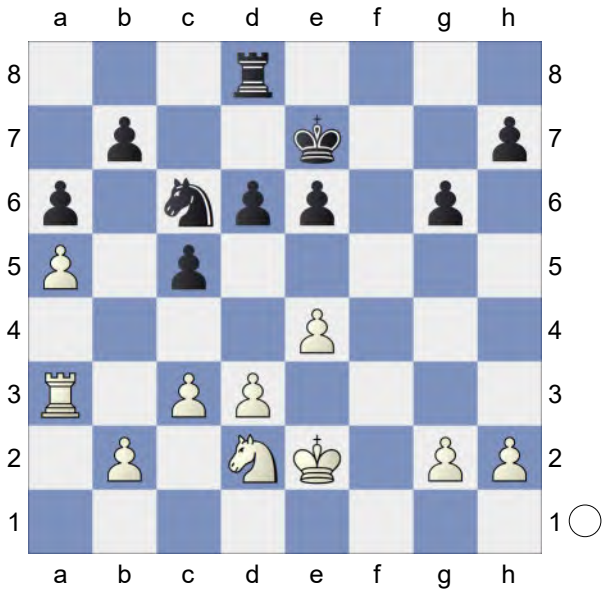


21.fxe4 Be5 22.Bg5 Rxf1+ 23.Rxf1 Rf8 0.37/21
[23...Bg7= 0.01/21]
24.Ra1 0.03/20
[24.Rxf8+± 0.37/21 Kxf8 25.Nc4]
24...Bf4 25.Bxf4 Rxf4=

(Diagram)

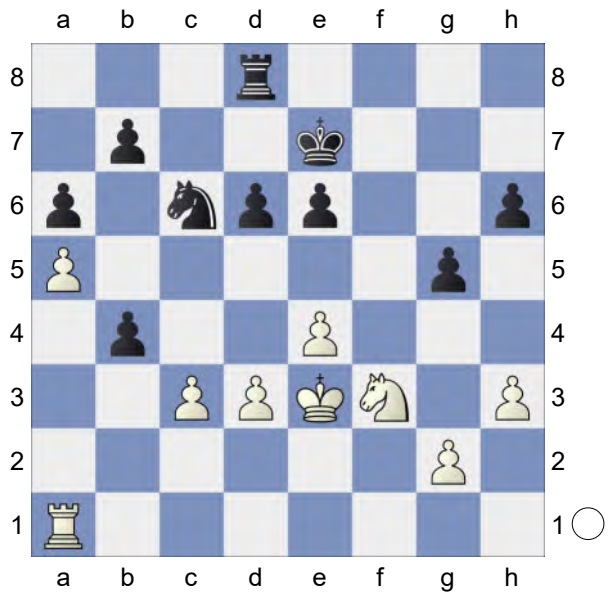


Endgame KRN-KRN **26.Nc4 Rf8** 0.55/23
[26...Kf7= 0.09/23]
27.Ra3± Rd8 28.Kf2
[28.Rb3!?]
28...e6 29.Ke2 0.07/20
[29.Ke3± 0.43/19 is superior.]
29...Kf8= 30.Nd2 Ke7



31.Nf3 h6 32.h3 g5 33.Ke3 Kd7 34.Ra1 Ke7 35.b4 cxb4

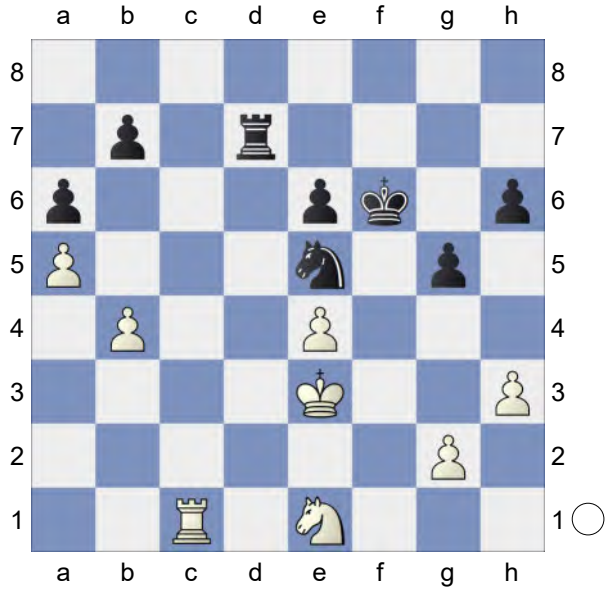
(Diagram)



36.cxb4 d5 37.Rb1 dxe4 38.dxe4 Kf6 39.Ne1 -0.34/23

[39.g3= -0.01/21 might be stronger.]

39...Ne5∓ 40.Rc1 Prevents Nc4+. **40...Rd7**



41.Rc8 Rd1 42.Nf3 -0.46/22

[42.Nc2!= -0.01/21 is more appropriate.]

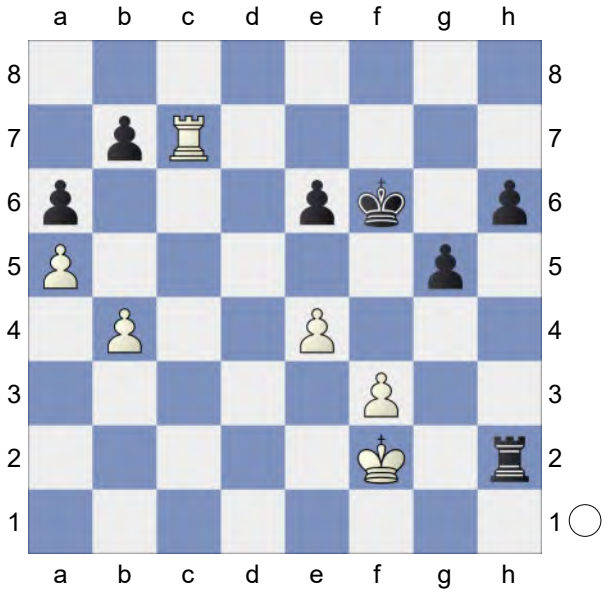
42...Nxf3 -0.07/24

[42...Rd3+!∓ -0.46/22 43.Kf2 *(43.Ke2 Rb3∓)* 43...Rb3]

43.gxf3 KR-KR **43...Rh1 44.Rc7** -0.36/24

[44.Kd4= -0.01/21]

44...Rxh3 aiming for ...g4. **45.Kf2 Rh2+**

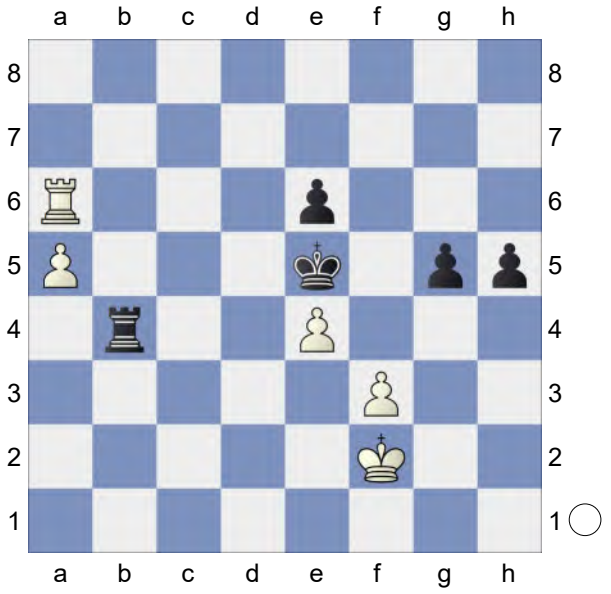


46.Ke3 Rb2 47.Rxb7 h5 -0.17/24

[47...Ke5!∓ -0.56/24 deserves consideration.]

48.Rb6= Ke5 49.Rxa6 Rb3+ 50.Kf2 Rxb4 -0.01/25

[Better is 50...h4∓ -0.52/22]



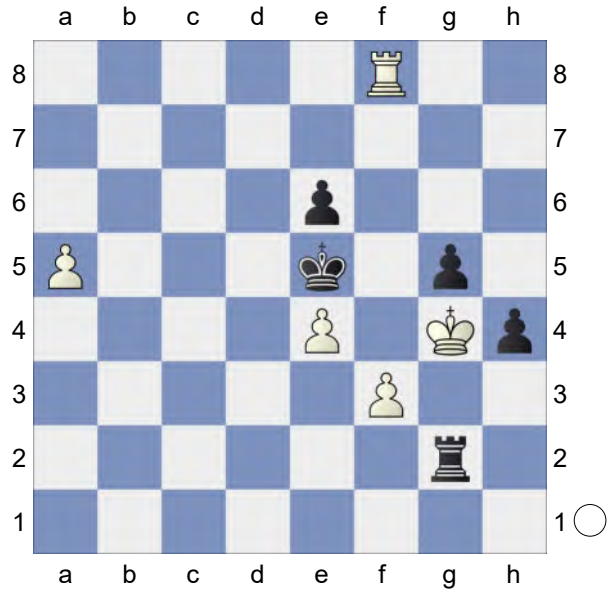
51.Ra8! The position is equal. **51...Rb2+ 52.Kg3 h4+ 53.Kh3**

[But not 53.Kg4 Rg2+ 54.Kh3 Rg3+ 55.Kh2 Rxf3∓]

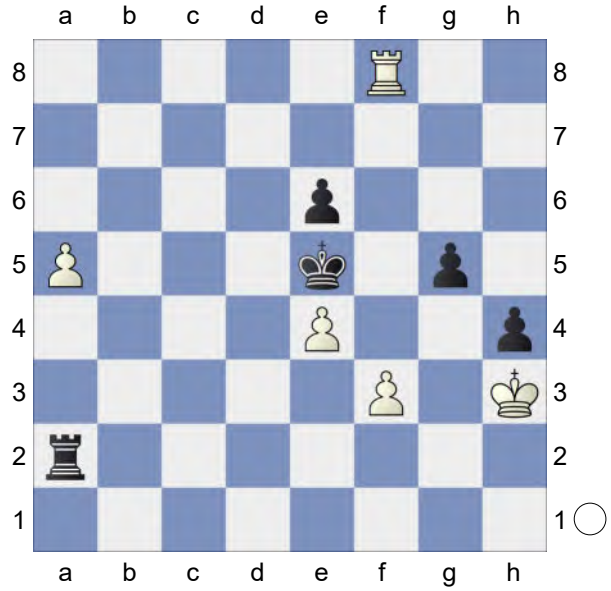
53...Rf2 54.Rf8

[Much worse is 54.Kg4 Rg2+ 55.Kh3 Rg3+ 56.Kh2 Rxf3∓]

54...Ra2 55.Kg4 Rg2+



56.Kh3 Ra2 57.Kg4! Rg2+ 58.Kh3 Ra2

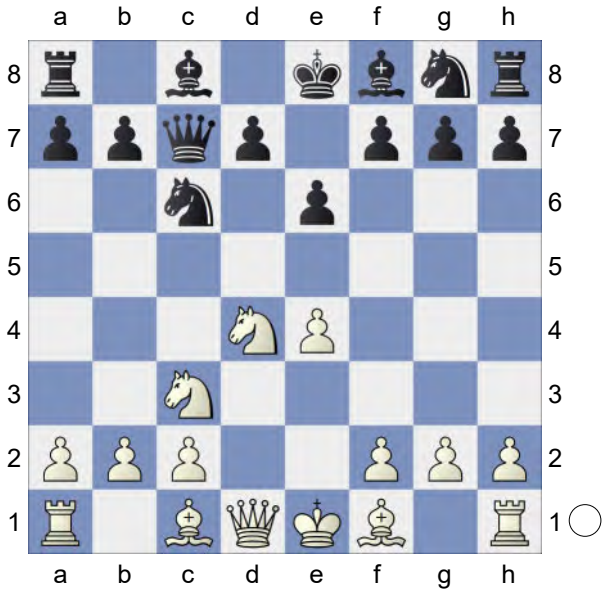


Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)

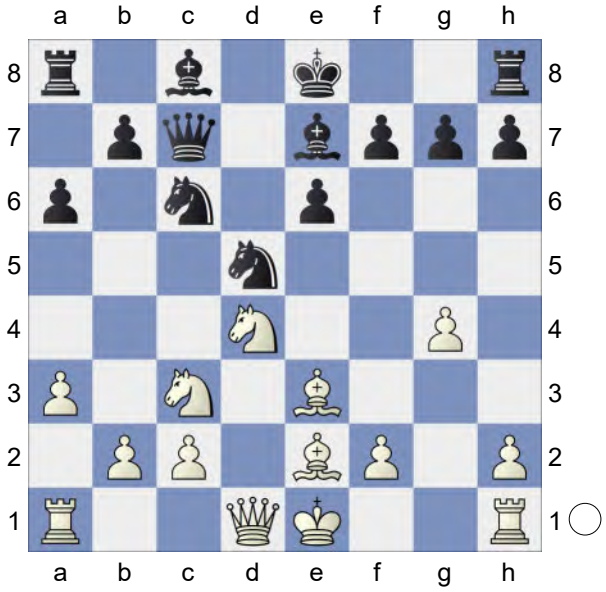
½-½

61 **B49**
□ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
■ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
Tata Steel Challengers (9.5) 28.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B48: Sicilian: Taimanov: 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Be3 a6 without Be2 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3**
[5.g3 Qb6 6.Nb3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 a6 10.Be3 Qc7 11.a4 Ne5 12.Bf4 d6 13.a5 Bd7 44/01]
5...Qc7

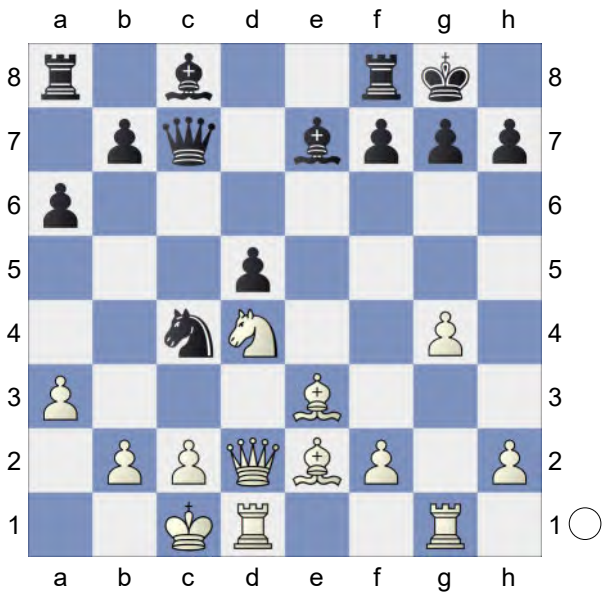


6.Be3N
[6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nce2 0-0 10.c4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 d6 12.b3 Bd7 13.Bb2 Bc6 14.Rac1 b6 15.Nc3 Qb7 16.Rfe1 Rfd8 17.Qe3 Re8 18.Qd2 b5 19.Nd5 exd5 20.cxd5 Bd7 Damjanovic,M-Langeweg,K Beverwijk 1966 CI1-130 [RR] ½-½ (37) 21.e5 Ng4 22.h3 Nh6 23.e6 Bc8 24.g4 Qb8 25.g5 Nf5 26.Be4 fxe6 27.Bxf5 e5 28.Qd3 Bxf5 29.Qxf5 Qd8 30.h4 Rf8 31.Qe6+ Kh8 32.Re4 Qb6 33.Rc2 Rae8 34.Rxe5 Qd8 35.Rf5 Rg8 Damjanovic,M-Browne,W San Juan 1969 CI1-130 [Byrne,Robert Eugene] ½-½ (37)]
6...a6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.a3 Be7 9.g4 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5

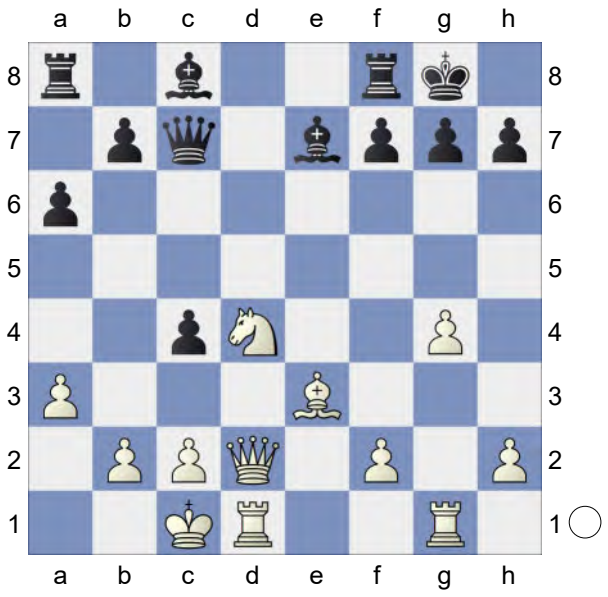


11.Nxd5 The position is equal. **11...exd5 12.Qd2 0-0 13.0-0-0 Ne5 14.Rhg1**
[14.Nf5 seems wilder. Bxf5 15.gxf5 Rad8 16.Rhg1]
14...Nc4
[14...Re8 is more complex. 15.Nf5 Bf8 16.h4 Nc4]

(Diagram)

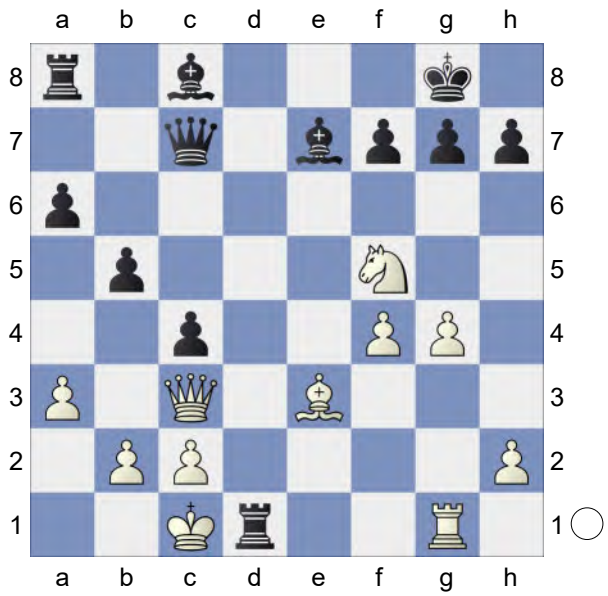


15.Bxc4 -0.21/22
[⌓15.Bf4! 0.13/19 Qb6 *(15...Qc5 16.Qc3)* 16.Qc3]
15...dxc4=

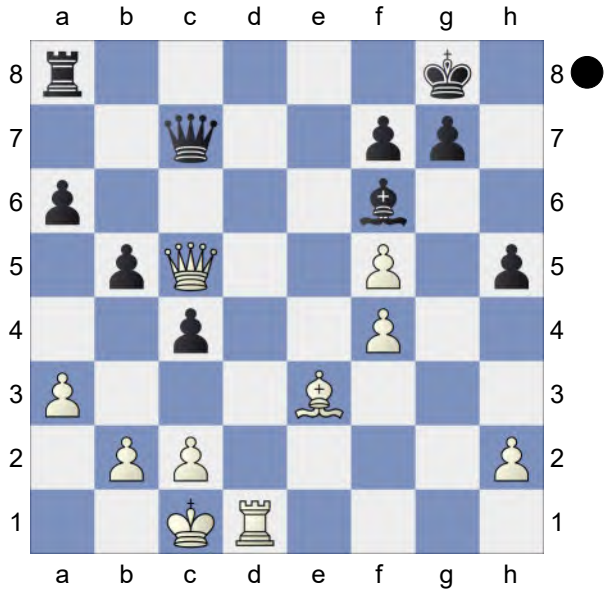


16.Bf4 Qc5 17.Qc3 Rd8 18.Be3 Black must now prevent Nf5! **18...Qc7!**
19.f4 -0.66/20
[19.h4= -0.17/19]
19...b5∓ 20.Nf5 -1.48/24 White is on the road to losing.
[20.h3∓ -0.67/19]
20...Rxd1+∓

(Diagram)

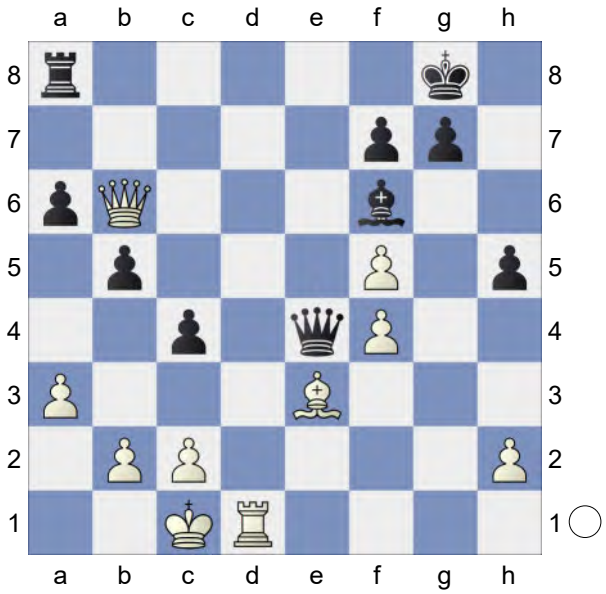


21.Rxd1 Bxf5 22.gxf5 Bf6 Prevents Qe5. **23.Qb4 h5 24.Qc5**

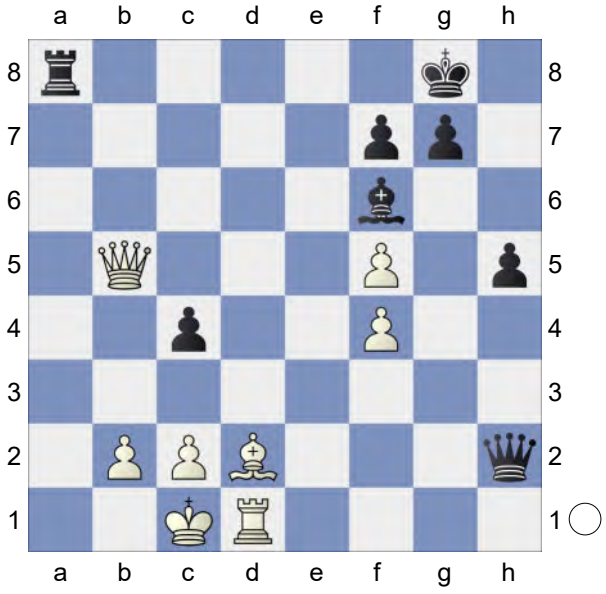


Inhibits Qc6. **24...Qb7 25.Qb6** -2.87/23
[⌓25.Rg1 -1.85/21]
25...Qe4

(Diagram)

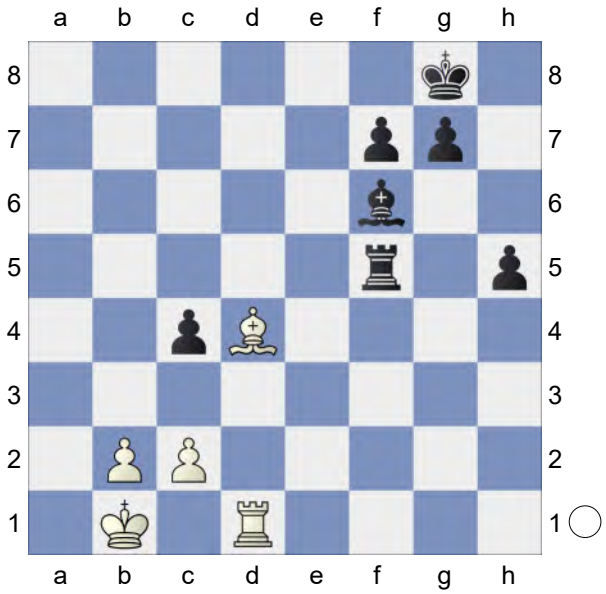


26.Qc5 Re8 27.Bd2 Qg2 28.a4 Qxh2 29.axb5 axb5 aiming for ...Ra8.
30.Qxb5 -7.03/24
[⌓30.Qg1 -4.06/21 Qh3 31.Bb4]
30...Ra8-+

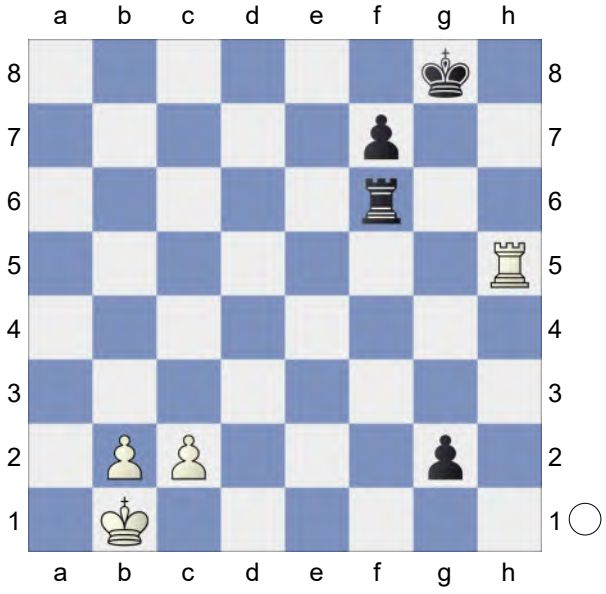


Black is clearly winning. **31.Ba5 Qxf4+ 32.Kb1 Rb8 33.Bb6 Qe3 34.Bxe3 Rxb5 35.Bd4 Rxf5**

(Diagram)



36.Bxf6 Rxf6 KR-KR **37.Rd4** -7.26/22
[⌓37.Rh1 -4.84/22 Rh6 38.Kc1]
37...g5 And now ...g4 would win.
38.Rxc4 g4 39.Rc5 g3 40.Rxh5 g2

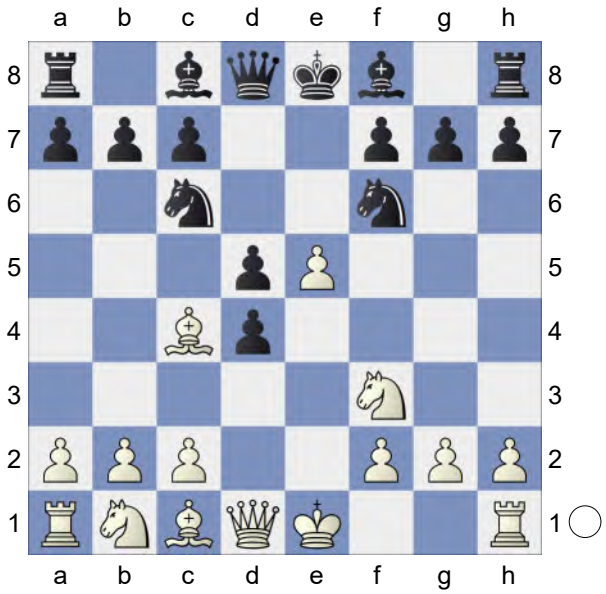


Weighted Error Value: White=0.60/ Black=0.17 (very precise)
0-1

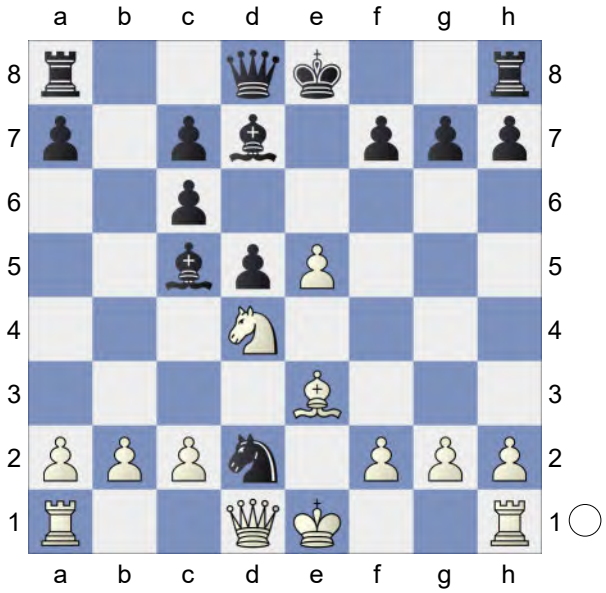
62 **C44**
□ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
■ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
Tata Steel Challengers (9.6) 28.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C56: Two Knights: 4 d4 exd4 5 0-0 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5
[5.0-0 d6 6.Nxd4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.h3 *(8.Re1 Ne5 9.Bf1 c6 10.a4 Bg4 11.f3 Bd7 12.Qd2 Qc7 13.Qf2 Rfe8 14.g3 Rad8 15.a5 a6 16.Be3 c5 17.Nb3 Bc6 18.Be2 Qc8 19.Nd2 h6 20.Nc4 Nxc4 21.Bxc4 d5 22.exd5 Nxd5* Fernandez Muixi,F (1953)-Ritter Aguilar,J (1724) Malgrat 2023 1-0 (53)*)* 8...Re8 9.Re1 Bd7 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Bc6 13.b4 a6 14.a4 Nh5 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.b5 axb5 17.axb5 Rxa1 18.Rxa1 Bd7 19.Nd5 Qg5 Bd2 Re1 (2405)-Gazola,V (2490) Budapest 1996 EXP 52 [Mueller] ½-½ (47)]
5...d5N
[5...Ng4 6.0-0 d6 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.Re1+ Be7 9.h3 Nf6 10.c3 0-0 11.cxd4 h6 12.Nc3 Bf5 13.Bf4 #6 16) Italian: Two Knights Side-Two Knights: 5...Ng4]

(Diagram)

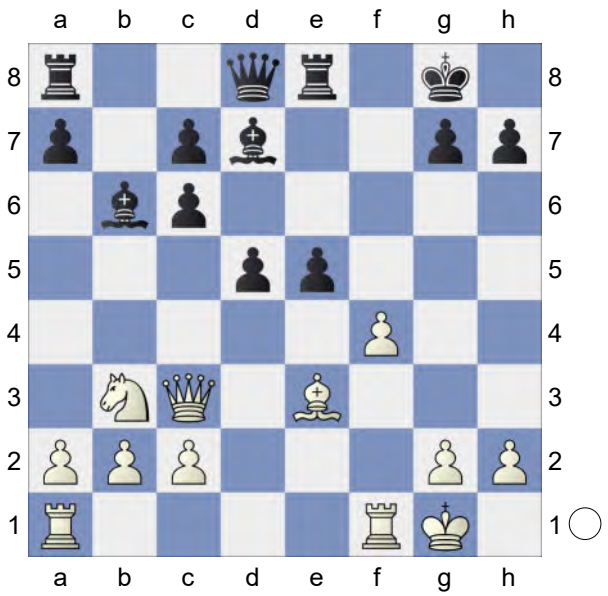


6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bc5 8.Be3 Bd7 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Nd2 Nxd2

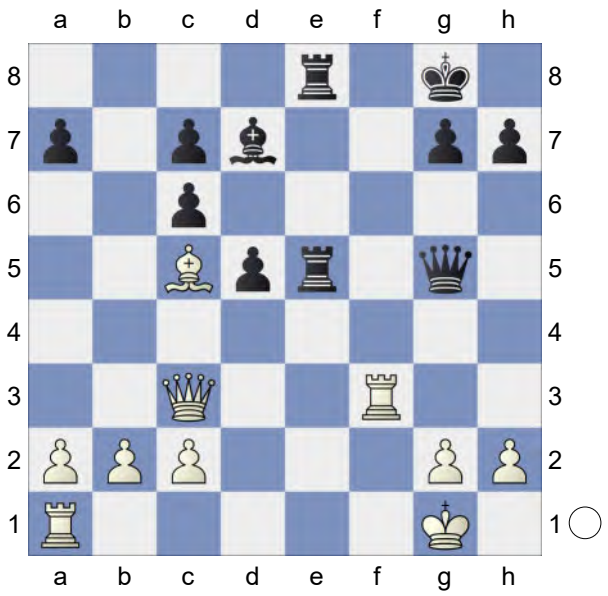


11.Qxd2 Bb6 12.Nb3 Prevents c5. **12...0-0 13.0-0 Re8** 0.28/19
[13...a5 -0.07/19 deserves consideration.]
14.Qc3 White has an edge. **14...f6 15.f4 fxe5!**

(Diagram)

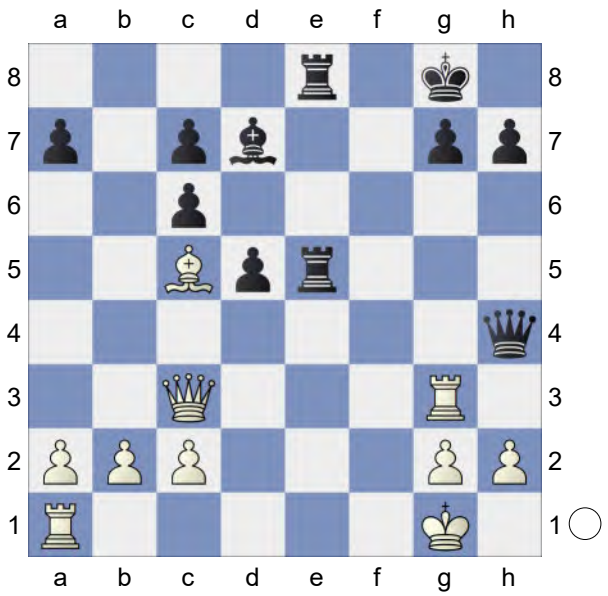


16.fxe5 Qg5 0.32/21
[16...Qh4= -0.12/20]
17.Nc5!± Bxc5 18.Bxc5 Rxe5 19.Rf3!
[Reject 19.Qf3 Rf5 20.Qd3 h6=]
19...Rae8 0.75/21
[19...Re2? 20.Rg3 Qh6 21.Rf1+-]
[19...Qh5!= 0.30/22]

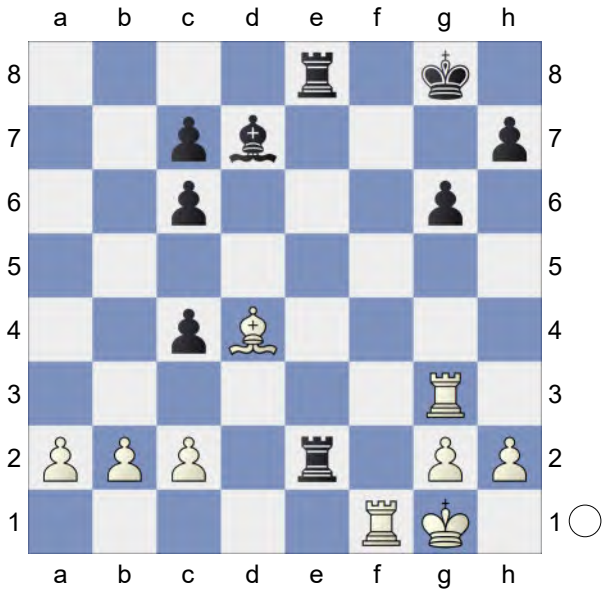


20.Rg3!±
[Of course not 20.Raf1 Rf5=]
20...Qh4

(Diagram)

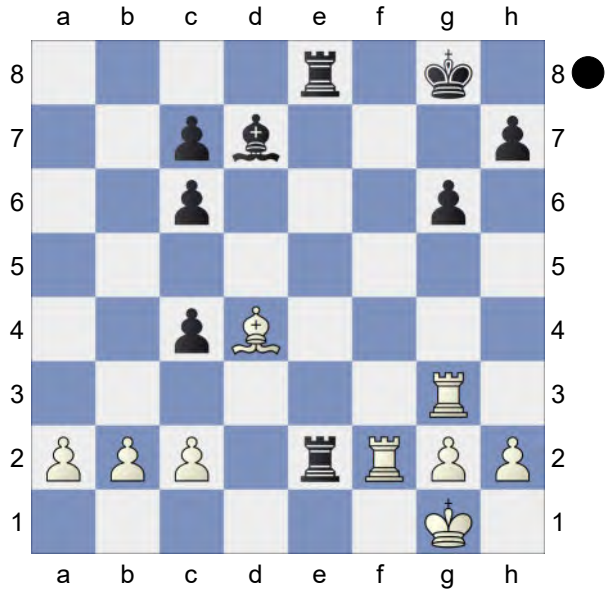


21.Rf1 Strongly threatening Qxe5!
21...Qc4 22.Qxc4
[22.Rgf3 keeps more tension. h6 23.Rf7 Rg5 24.Qxc4 dxc4 25.Rxd7 Rxc5 26.Rff7]
22...dxc4 23.Bd4 R5e7 24.Bxa7 Re2 25.Bd4 g6



26.Rf2 0.01/21
[26.h4!± 0.38/24 is superior.]
26...Re1+= 27.Rf1 R1e2 28.Rf2 0.01/21
[28.h4!± 0.56/21]
28...Re1+ 29.Rf1 R1e2 30.Rf2 -0.01/31

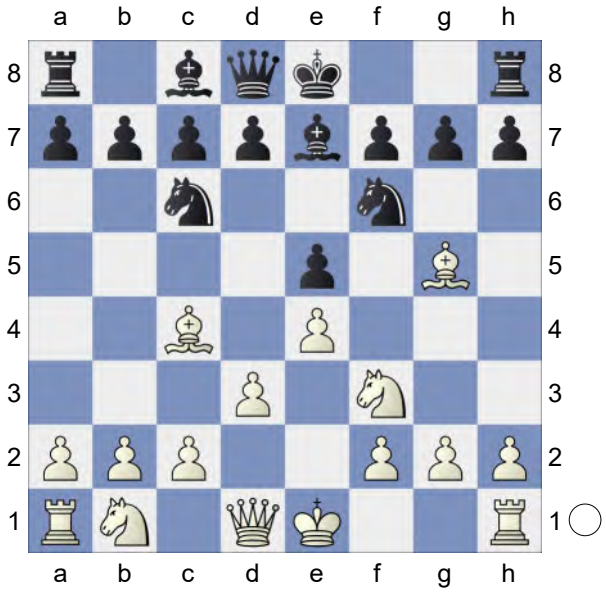
[White should try 30.h4± 0.71/23]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

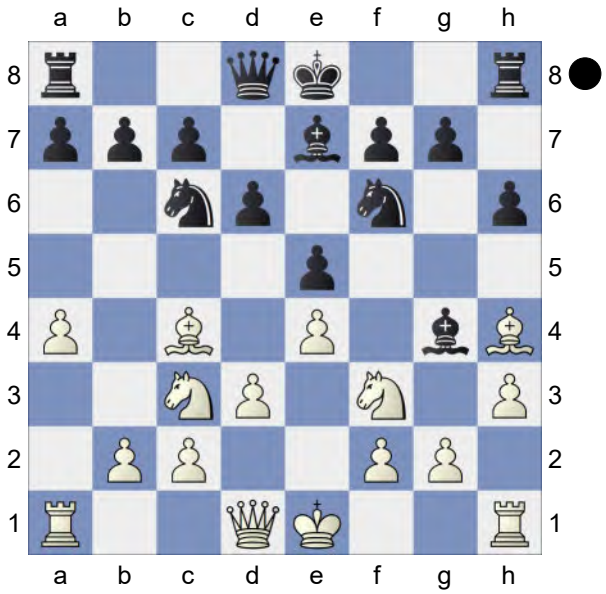
63 **C50**
□ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
■ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
Tata Steel Challengers (9.7) 28.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Be7**

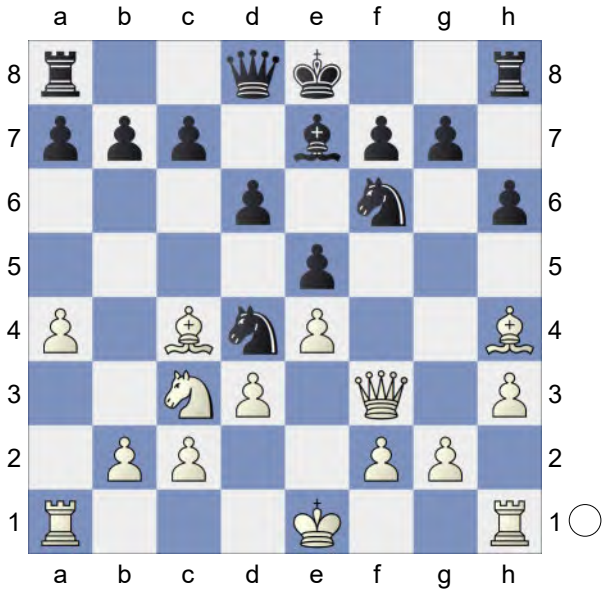


6.a4 h6 7.Bh4 d6N
[7...a5 8.Bg3 d6 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.c3 Nd7 11.Nf1 Nb6 12.Bb3 Bf6 13.Ne3 Re8 14.0-0 Be6 15.Bxe6 Rxe6 16.Nd5 Nd7 17.Nd2 Ne7 18.Ne3 Bg5 19.f4 exf4 20.Bxf4 Bxf4 21.Rxf4 Nf6 22.Ng4 So,W (2757)-Carlsen,M (2830) Chess. com INT 2024 Mega2024 Update 14 [Kitty Kat] ½-½ (57)]
8.Nc3 Bg4 9.h3

(Diagram)

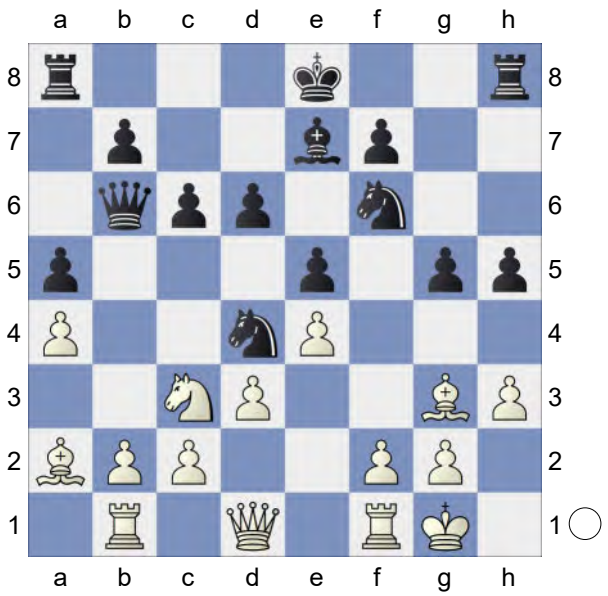


Hoping for Bxf6. **9...Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Nd4**

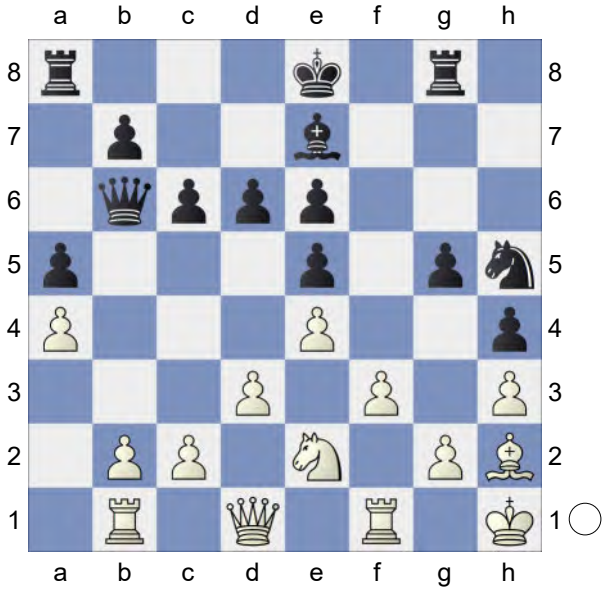


11.Qd1 c6 12.Ba2 Qb6 13.Rb1 a5 14.0-0 g5 15.Bg3 h5

(Diagram)

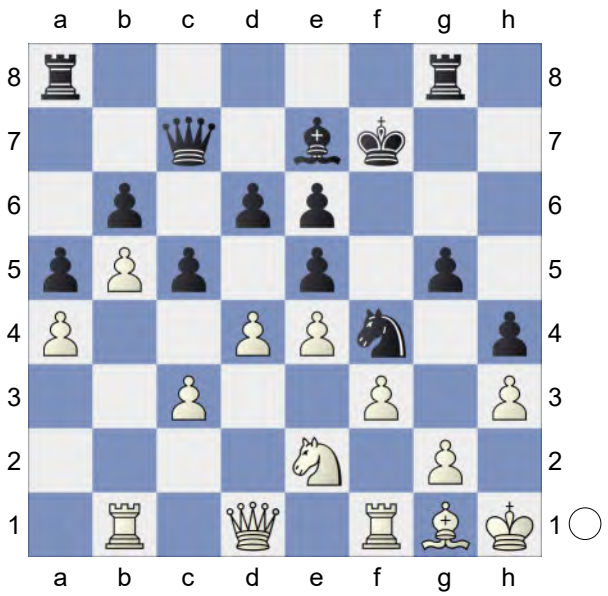


16.Kh1 h4 17.Bh2 Rg8
[17...Qb4 with more complications. 18.Nd5 cxd5 19.c3 Qb6]
18.Ne2 Ne6 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.f3
Against g4 **20...Nh5**

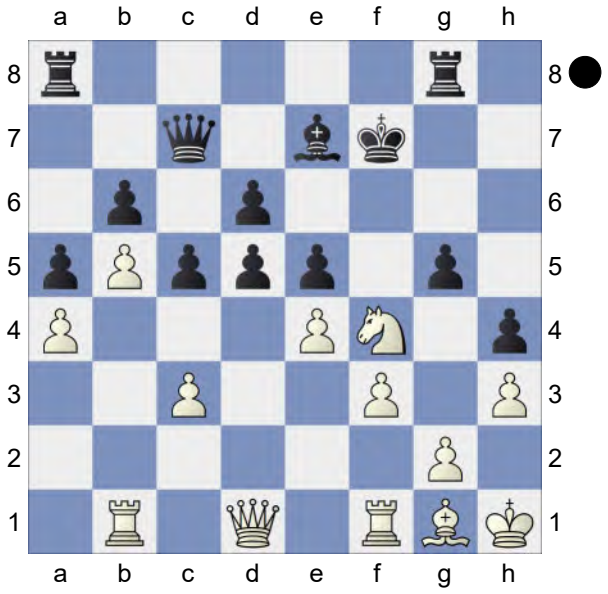


21.c3
[21.d4!?]
21...Nf4 22.b4 Kf7 23.b5 c5 24.Bg1 Qc7 25.d4 b6

(Diagram)

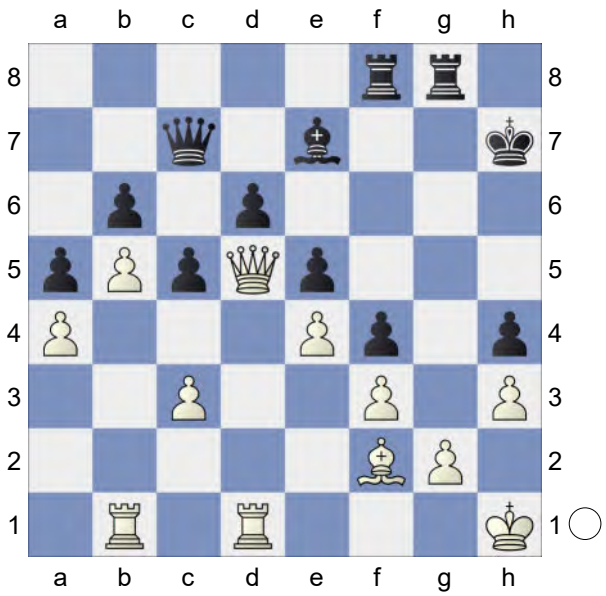


26.d5 0.33/20
[26.Qd2 0.69/17 is superior.]
26...exd5 27.Nxf4

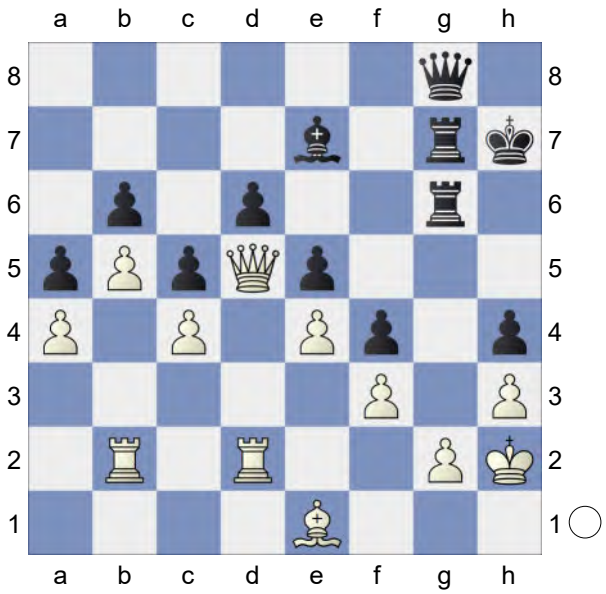


Remove Defender **27...gxf4 28.Qxd5+ Kg7 29.Rfd1 Raf8 30.Bf2 Kh7**

(Diagram)

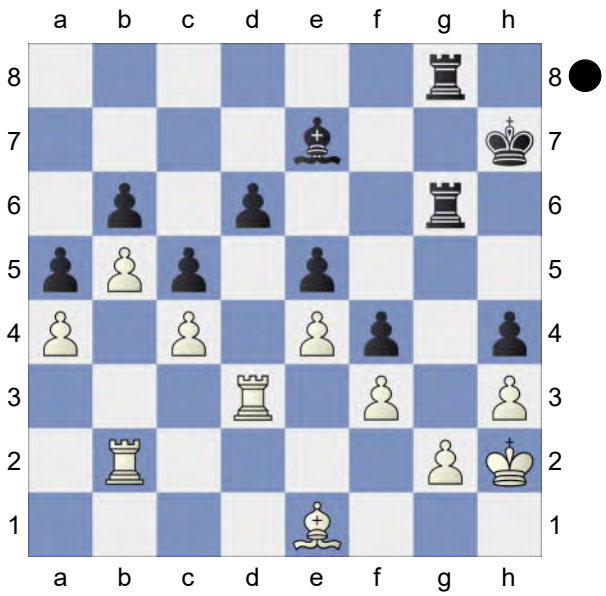


31.Rb2 Rg6 32.Be1 Rfg8 33.c4 Qc8 And now ...Rxg2! would win. **34.Kh2 R8g7 35.Rdd2** Active counter play! **35...Qg8**



36.Qxg8+ Rxg8 37.Rd3

(Diagram)

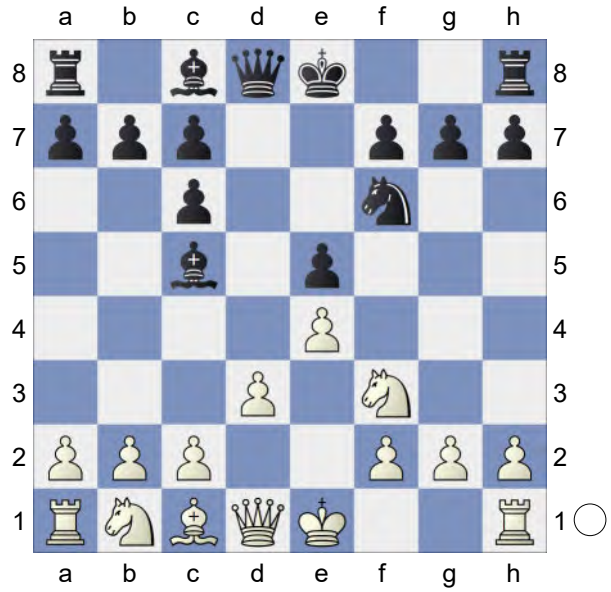


Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

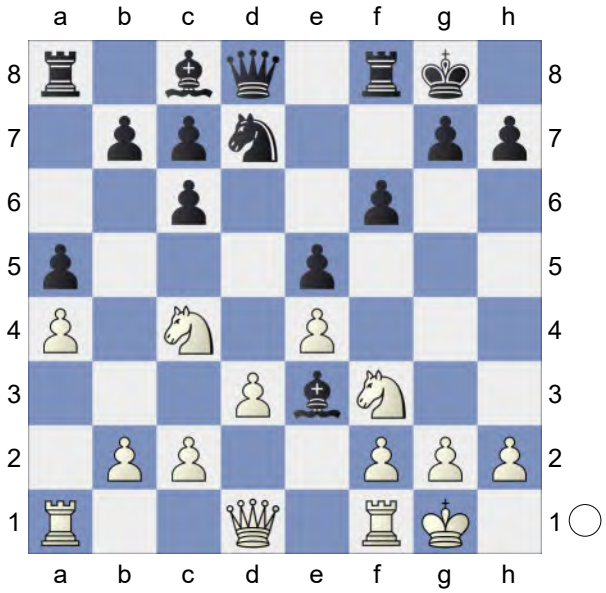
½-½

64 **C65**
□ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
■ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
Tata Steel Challengers (10.1) 29.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6**

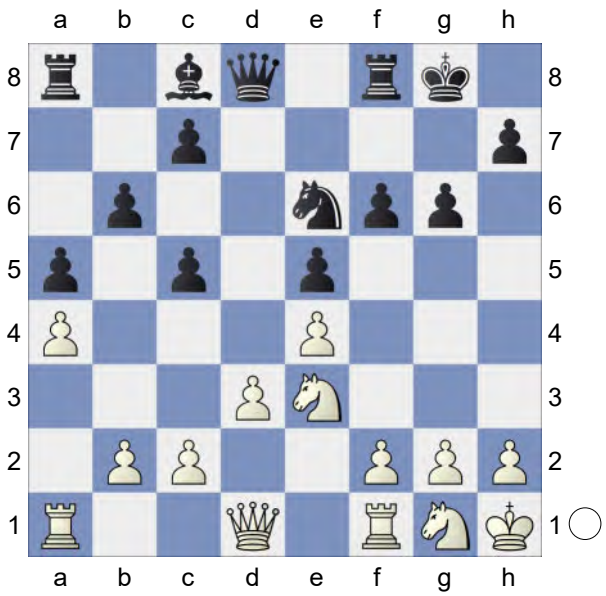


6.Nbd2 Nd7 7.Nc4 f6 8.a4
[8.c3 Nb6 9.Na5 0-0 10.b4 Be7 11.Be3 Rb8 12.h3 Be6 13.0-0 Qc8 14.a4 Rd8 15.Qe2 Bf7 16.Nh4 Bf8 17.Rfd1 Qe6 18.Kh2 Nc8 19.g3 b6 20.Nc4 Nd6 21.Nd2 Nb7 22.f4 a5 Duda,J (2731)-Grischuk,A (2745) Chess.com INT 2022 ½-½ (65)]
[8.0-0 Nf8 9.Be3 Bxe3 10.Nxe3 Ne6 11.Nh4 0-0 12.Nhf5 c5 13.Kh1 Nd4 14.Ng3 Be6 15.Ne2 Qd6 16.a4 a5 17.b3 Rad8 18.f3 b6 19.Rb1 Qd7 20.f4 Nxe2 21.Qxe2 exf4 22.Rxf4 c6 Kokarev,D (2538)-Lazavik,D (2578) Sochi 2024 ½-½ (32)]
8...a5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3 Bxe3N
[10...Re8 11.Kh1 Bf8 12.Nh4 Nc5 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 e4 15.d4 Nxa4 16.Rxa4 b5 17.Rxa5 bxc4 18.Qd2 Rxa5 19.Qxa5 Qd5 20.Qxc7 Bd6 21.Qd7 Ra8 22.g4 h6 23.Kg2 Bf8 24.Qe6+ Qxe6 25.fxe6 Ivic,V (2561)-Kramnik,V (2753) Chess.com INT 2023 ½-½ (76) Bd6 26.Re1 Ra2 27.Bc1 c3 28.bxc3 Rxc2 29.Be3 Kf8 30.Ra1 g5 31.Ra7 Ke8 32.Rd7 Bf4 33.Kf1 Rxc3 34.Ke2 Bxe3 35.fxe3 Rc2+ 36.Kd1 Rxh2 37.Rc7 Rh1+ 38.Kd2 Rh2+ 39.Kc3 Rh1 40.Kb4 Juilfs,G (2561)-Hantel,T (2753) Imperatriz 2023 Inf 94 [John Watson] ½-½ (76)]

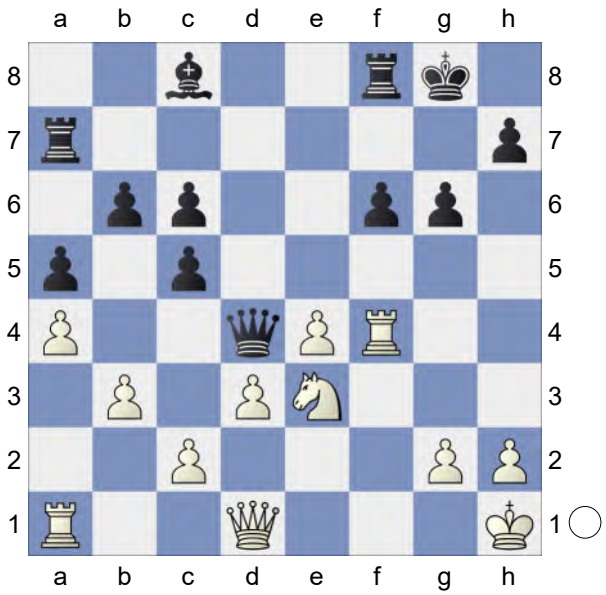


11.Nxe3 Nc5 12.Nh4 g6 13.Nf3 Ne6 14.Kh1 b6 15.Ng1 c5

(Diagram)

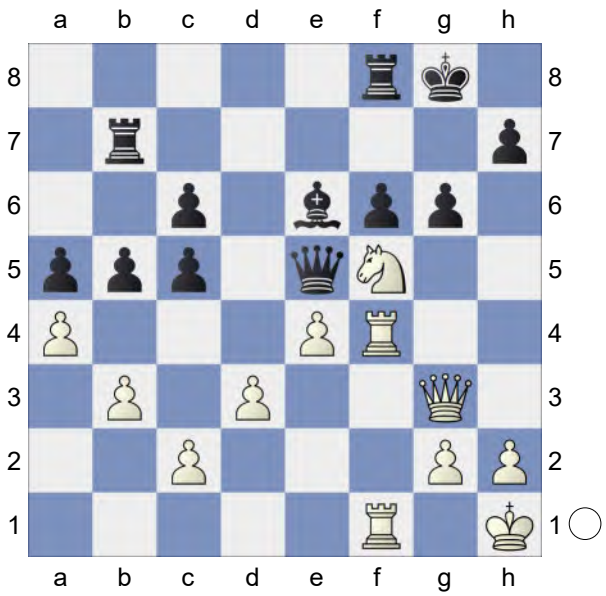


16.Ne2 c6 17.b3 Ra7 18.f4 exf4 19.Nxf4 Nxf4 20.Rxf4 Qd4

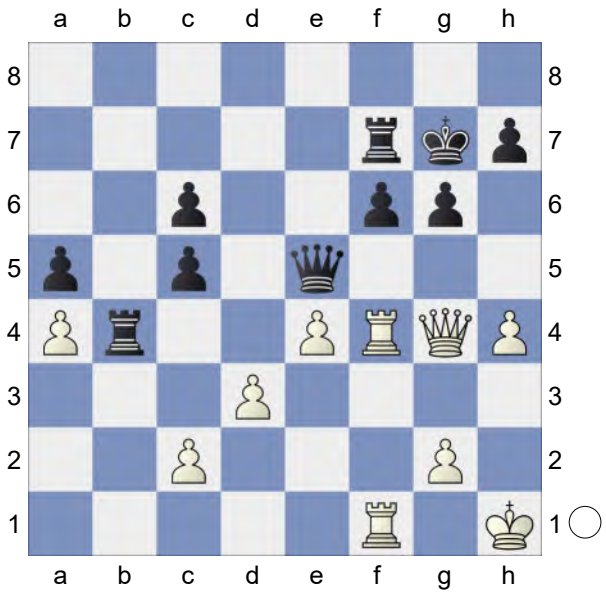


21.Qg1 Be6 22.Raf1 b5 23.Qf2 Raf7
24.Qg3 Strongly threatening Nf5.
24...Qe5 25.Nf5 Rb7

(Diagram)

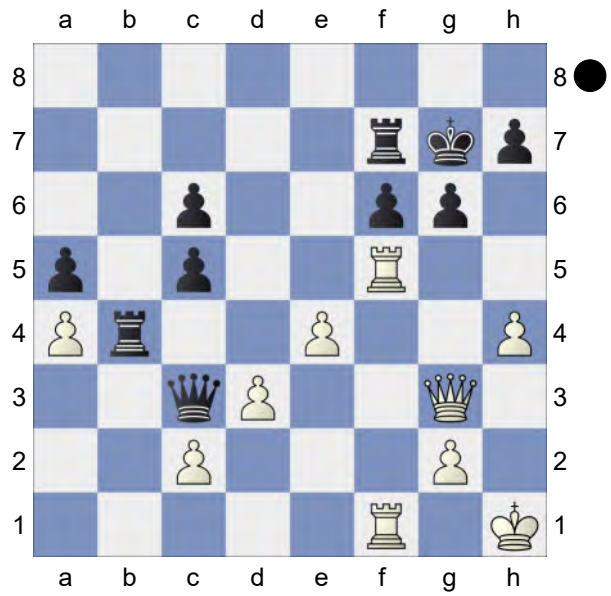


26.Ne3 Rxf6! is the strong threat.
26...Kg7 27.h4 bxa4 28.bxa4 Rb4 29.Ng4 Bxg4 30.Qxg4 Rf7



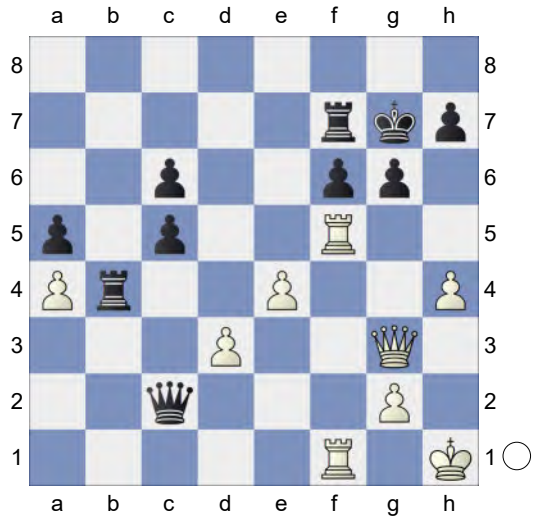
31.Rf5 Qd4 32.R5f4 Qe5 Inhibits h5.
33.Rf5 Qc3 34.Qg3 -1.04/22
[34.h5± 0.31/21 keeps the upper hand.]

(Diagram)



34...Rxa4 -0.01/18

[34...Qxc2?

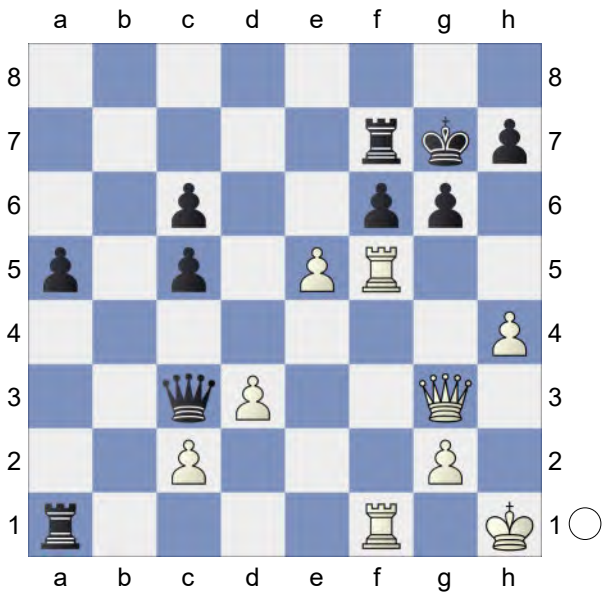


35.Rxf6! Rxf6 36.Qe5+-]

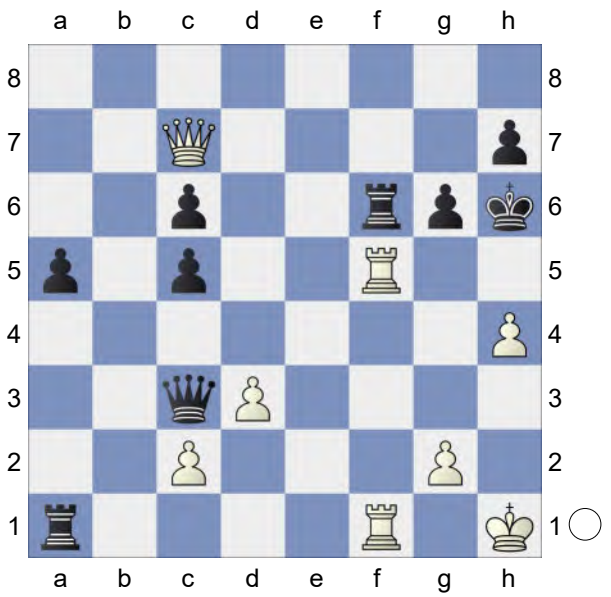
[34...Rxe4!∓ -1.04/22 35.Qf2 gxf5 36.dxe4 fxe4]

35.e5= The position is equal. **35...Ra1!**

(Diagram)



36.exf6+ Rxf6 37.Qc7+ Kh6 38.Qf4+ Kg7 39.Qc7+ Kh6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)

½-½

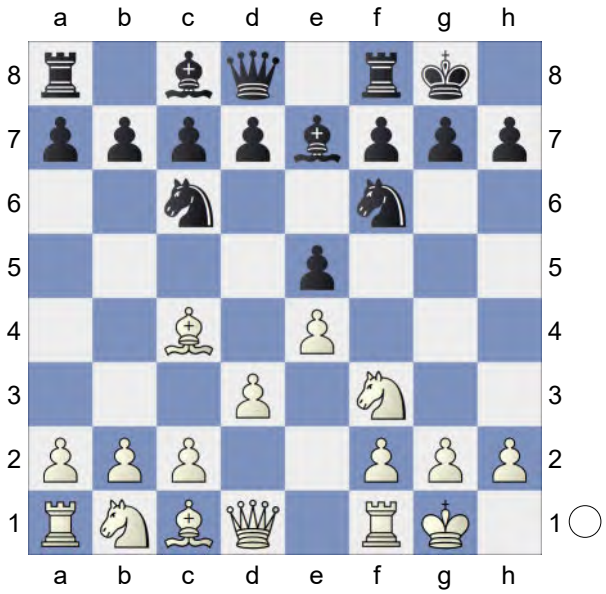
65 **C55**
□ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
■ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
Tata Steel Challengers (10.2) 29.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7**

[4...h6 5.Nc3 Bc5 6.h3 d6 7.Na4 Bb6 8.a3 Be6 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.b4 0-0 11.0-0 Qe8 12.c4 Nd4 13.Nxb6 Nxf3+ 14.Qxf3 axb6 15.Qe2 Qg6 16.Ra2 Nh5 17.Qg4 Kh7 18.Qxg6+ Kxg6 19.a4 Nepomniachtchi,I (2792)-Caruana,F (2820) Paris 2021 CBM 203 Extra [GM Luis Supi] 1-0 (64)]

[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.Bb3 a5 9.c3 Nb6 10.Nh4 g6 11.a4 Bd6 12.d4 Qe7 13.Be3 Bd7 14.dxe5 fxe5 15.Nf3 h6 16.Nbd2 0-0-0 17.Ne4 Bf5 18.Nfd2 Nd7 19.Bd5 Abdusattorov, N (2727)-Van Foreest,J (2682) Scheveningen 2024 1-0]

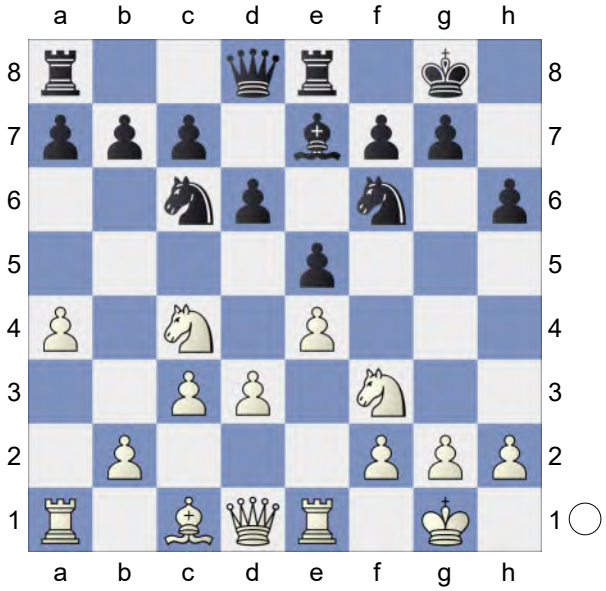
5.0-0 0-0



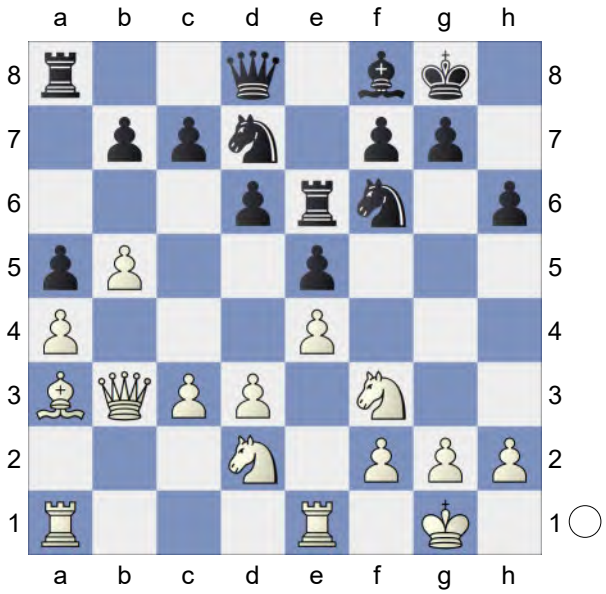
6.Re1N

[6.Nc3 d6 7.a3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nd4 10.Qd1 c6 11.f4 exf4 12.Rxf4 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Ba2 Bc5 15.Kh1 Re8 16.Rf1 Ne6 17.g4 d4 18.Na4 Be7 19.g5 Nd7 20.Rxf7 Bd6 Edighoffer,H-Melton,R corr 1996 ½-½ (56)]

6...d6 7.a4 Be6 8.Nbd2 Bxc4 9.Nxc4 h6 10.c3 Re8

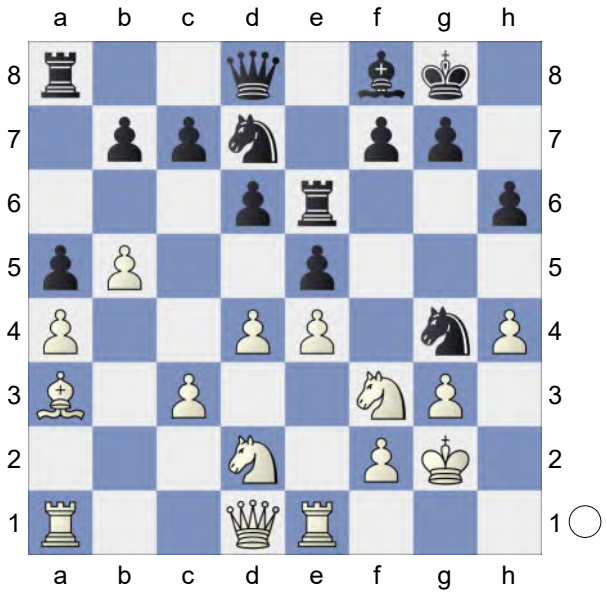


White has an edge. **11.b4 Bf8 12.b5 Nb8 13.Qb3 a5 14.Ba3 Re6 15.Ncd2 Nbd7**

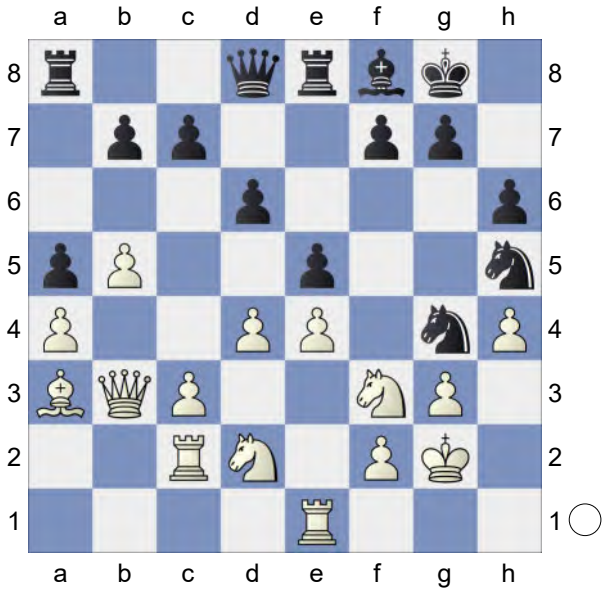


16.d4 Nh7 17.h4 Nhf6 18.g3 Ng4

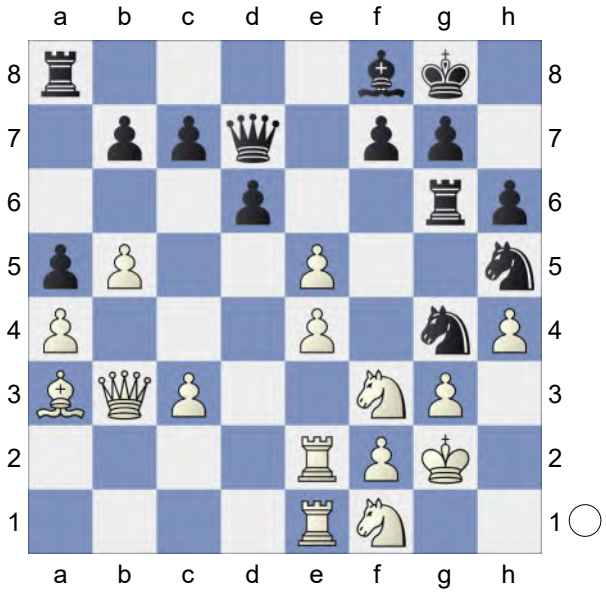
19.Kg2 Ndf6 20.Qd1 Nd7



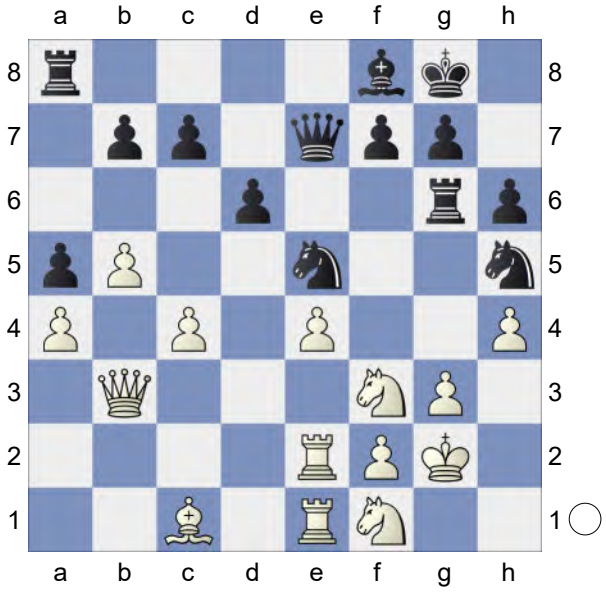
21.Qb3 0.01/15
[21.d5± 0.55/18 Re8 22.Nc4]
21...Ndf6= 22.Qd1 -0.01/16
[22.d5± 0.50/16 Re8 23.b6]
22...Nd7! 23.Ra2 Re8 24.Qb3 Ndf6 25.Rc2 Nh5 0.65/19
[⌓25...c6 0.31/19]



26.Nf1 0.07/19 Active counter play!
[White should try 26.dxe5± 0.65/19 Nxe5 27.Nxe5 Rxe5 28.Nf3]
26...Qd7 0.48/16
[26...Qf6= 0.07/19]
27.Rce2 Re6 28.dxe5 Rg6

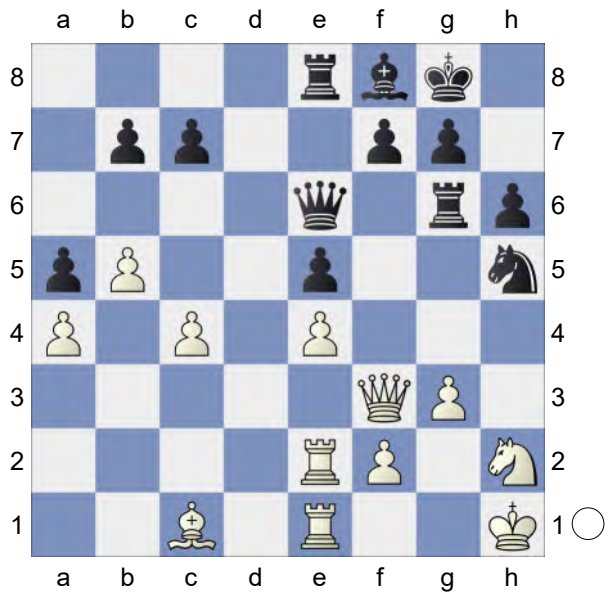


Strongly threatening ...Nf4+! **29.Bc1** Inhibits Nf4+. **29...Nxe5** aiming for ... Nd3. **30.c4 Qe7**



31.N1h2 Re8 32.Kh1 Qe6 0.45/23
[32...Nf6= 0.01/19 should be considered.]
33.Nxe5± dxe5 34.Qf3 Rc2 is the strong threat. **34...Nf6 35.h5 Nxh5**

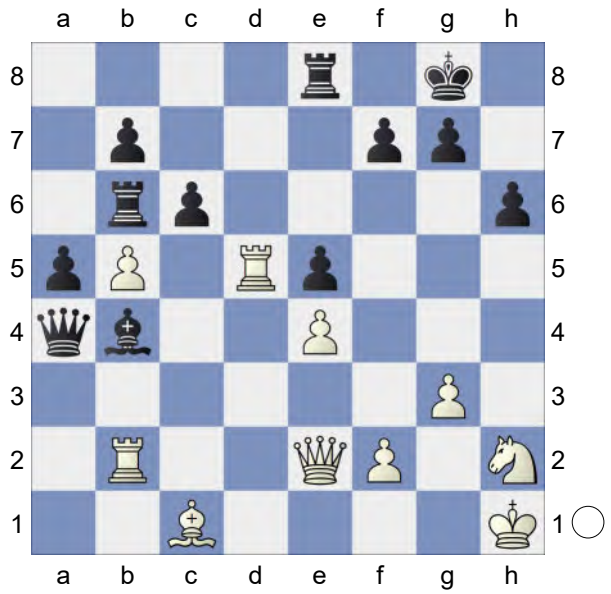
(Diagram)



36.Qxh5 Qxc4 37.Rb2 Qxa4 38.Qe2 Bb4 1.24/20

[⌓38...Bc5 0.78/19]

39.Rd1 Rb6 40.Rd5 c6



41.bxc6 Rxc6 1.32/20

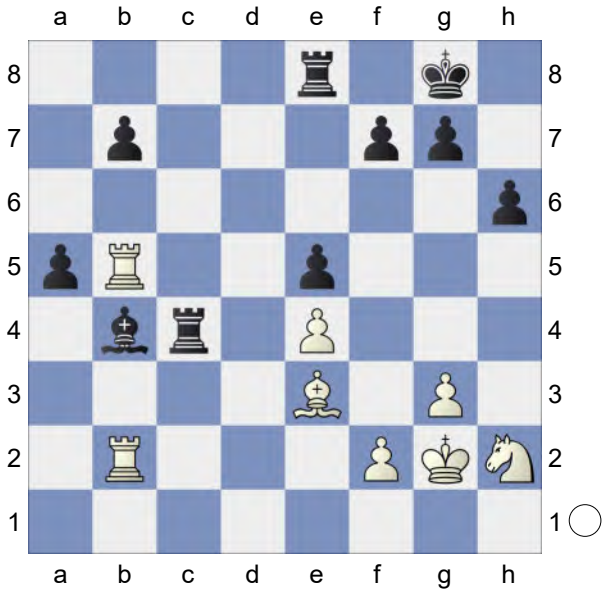
[⌓41...bxc6 0.99/20 42.Rd3 Bc5]

42.Be3± Rd6 43.Qb5 Qxb5 44.Rxb5 Rc6 2.04/22

[44...b6 1.62/18 might work better. 45.Rc2 *(45.Bxb6 Rb8∓; 45.Rxb6 Rxb6 46.Bxb6 Ra8±)* 45...f6]

45.Kg2 Rc4 2.09/21

[⌓45...b6 1.74/22 46.Rxb6 Rxb6 47.Bxb6 f6]



46.Kf3 h5 2.09/20

[46...Bc3± 1.55/20]

47.Nf1+-

[47.Rxb7 Bc3]

47...Re6 48.Nd2

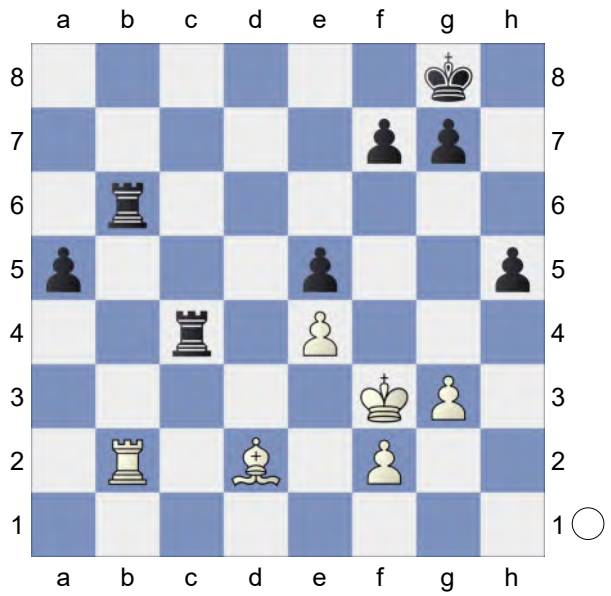
[But not 48.Rxb7 Rd6 49.Rb8+ Kh7]

48...Bxd2 49.Bxd2

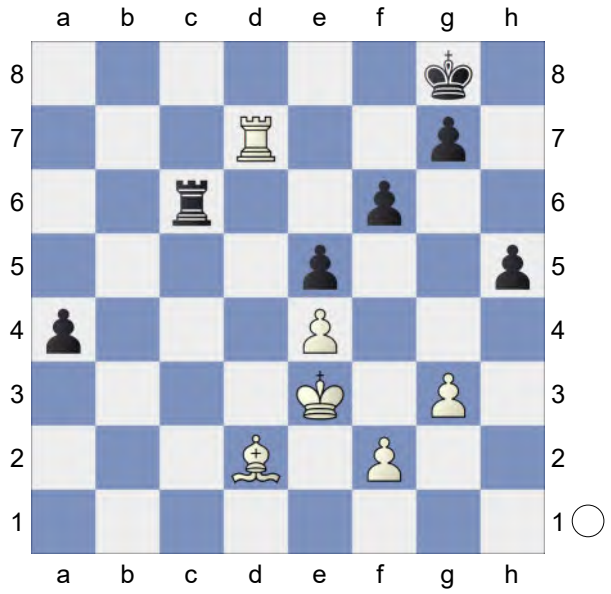
[Don't take 49.Rxd2?! a4 50.Rxb7 *(50.Rd8+ Kh7±)* 50...Rf6+ 51.Ke2 Rxe4]

49...b6 50.Rxb6 Rxb6

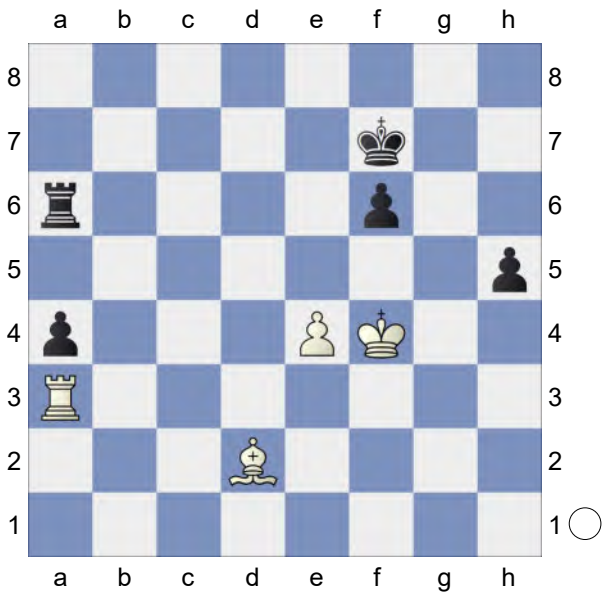
(Diagram)



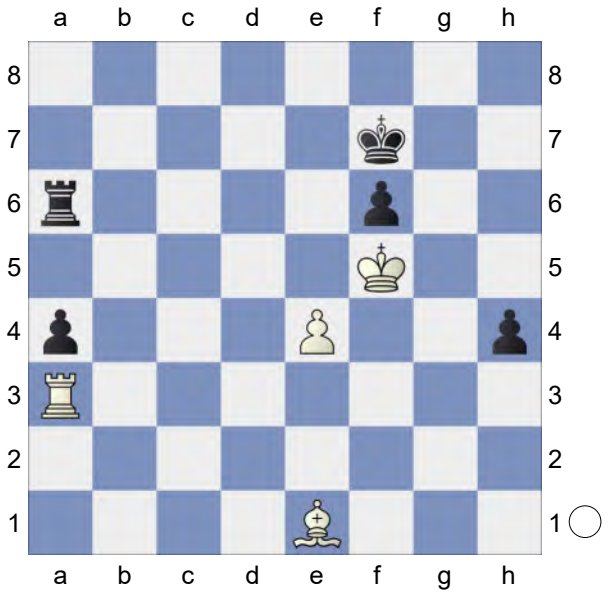
51.Rxb6 Endgame KRB-KR **51...a4 52.Ra6 f6 53.Ke3 Kf7 54.Ra7+ Kg8 55.Rd7** 1.54/24
[55.f4+- 2.63/23]
55...Rc6 2.64/23
[55...Rc8± 1.54/24]



56.Rd3 Ra6 57.Ra3 g5 58.f4 exf4+ 59.gxf4 gxf4+ 3.10/26
[59...Kh7 1.71/22 was called for. 60.Kf3 Kg6]
60.Kxf4 Kf7
(Diagram)



61.Kf5 h4 62.Bb4 3.04/26 Inhibits Rd6.
[⌓62.Bf4 2.05/25]
62...Ra7? 4.95/28
[62...Ra8 3.04/26 63.Bc3 Ra6]
63.Be1 Ra6 64.Bb4? -0.01/21
[Better is 64.Bxh4+- 4.78/27 Ra5+ 65.Kf4]
64...Ra7!= 65.Be1? -0.01/22
[65.Bc3+- 3.08/21]
65...Ra6!



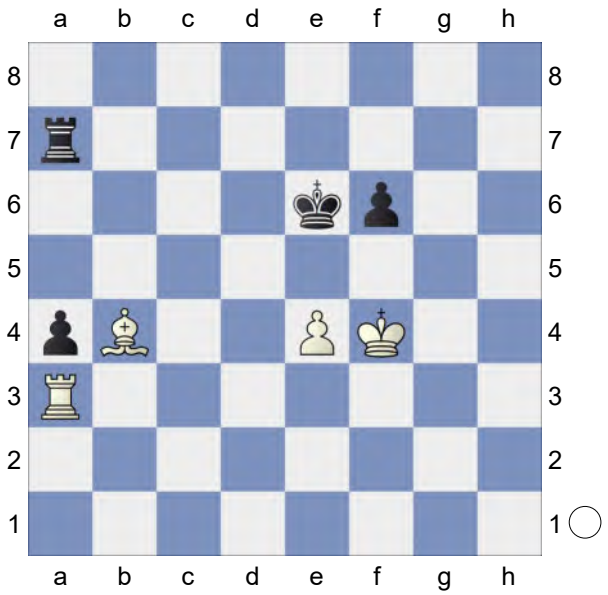
66.Bxh4 Ra5+ 67.Kf4 Ke6? 1.38/22
[67...Ra8+- 3.93/28 68.Be1 Ke6]
68.Be1? 5.43/28

[68.Kg4± 1.38/22]

68...Ra8+- 69.Bc3 Ra6? 4.83/20

[69...Rc8 2.82/24 was worth a try. 70.Ba1 Ra8]

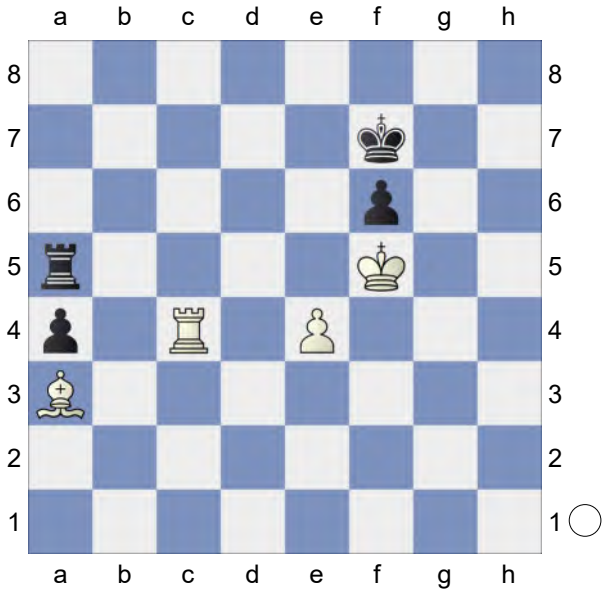
70.Bb4 Ra7



71.Rd3 Ra6 72.Ba3 And now Rd4 would win. **72...Rb6 73.Rd4** Hoping for Rb4. **73...Ra6?** 7.16/26

[73...Rb1 3.98/26 74.Rxa4 Rf1+ 75.Ke3 Re1+ 76.Kf3 Rf1+ 77.Ke2 Rb1]

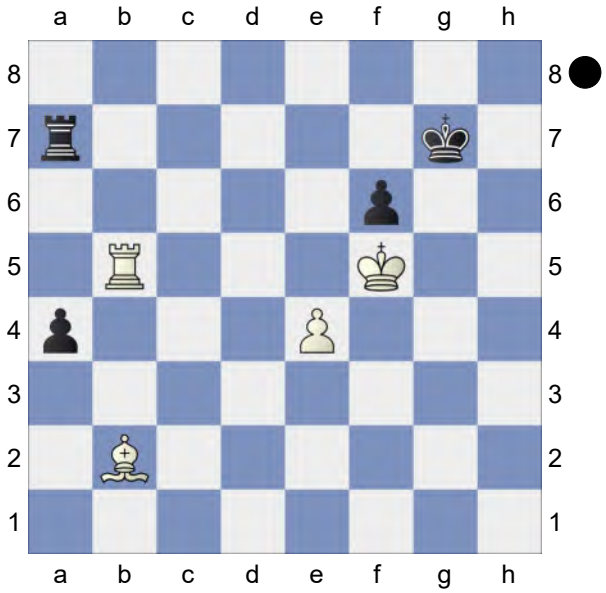
74.Rc4 White is clearly winning. **74...Kf7 75.Kf5 Ra5+**



76.Rc5 Ra7 77.Rb5 Kg7 12.19/24

[⌓77...Ra6 5.02/24 78.Rb7+ Ke8 79.Re7+ Kd8]

78.Bb2

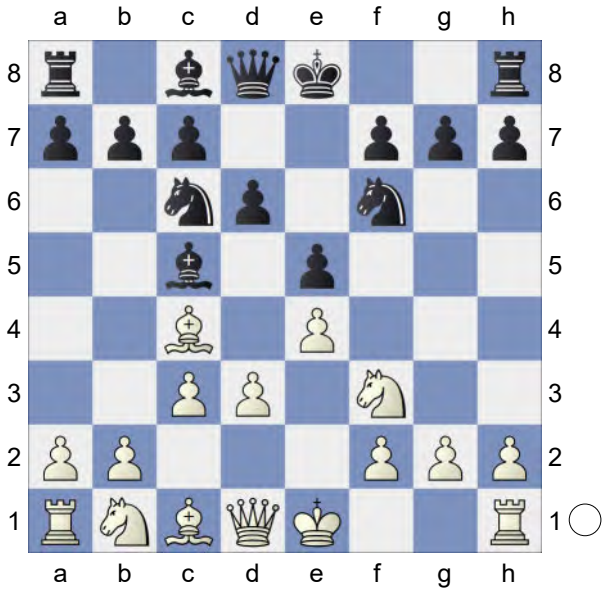


Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)

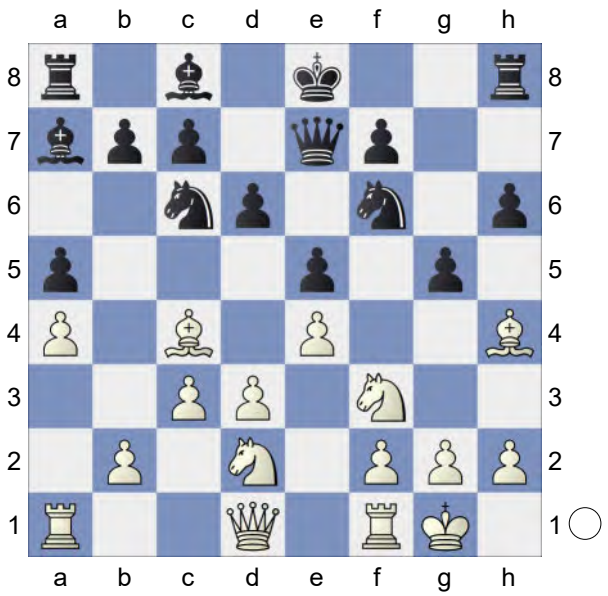
1-0

66 **C53**
□ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
■ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
Tata Steel Challengers (10.3) 29.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6**



6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 a5 8.Nbd2 Ba7 9.a4 Qe7 The position is equal. **10.0-0 g5**



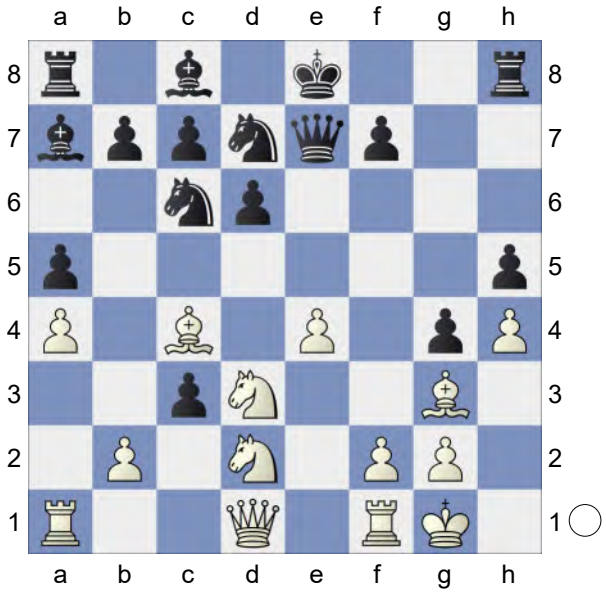
11.Bg3 Nd7N

[11...0-0 12.Re1 Bg4 13.Nf1 Bh5 14.Ne3 Bxe3 15.Rxe3 Kg7 16.Qb3 Nd8 17.h3 Nd7 18.d4 f6 19.Nd2 Nb6 20.Ree1 Bf7 21.Bxf7 Qxf7 22.Qxf7+ Rxf7 23.f3 Ne6 24.Nb3 Nc4 25.Re2 Ra6 26.d5 Vaishali,R (2475)-Muzychuk,A (2520) Toronto CAN 2024 The Week in Chess 1536 [Kitty Kat] ½-½ (48)]

12.d4 -0.04/19
[12.Bb5± 0.43/18]

12...h5= 13.h4 -0.30/18
[⌓13.d5 0.03/17 h4 14.dxc6 bxc6 15.Bxe5! Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.Nf3]

13...g4 14.Ne1 exd4 15.Nd3 dxc3



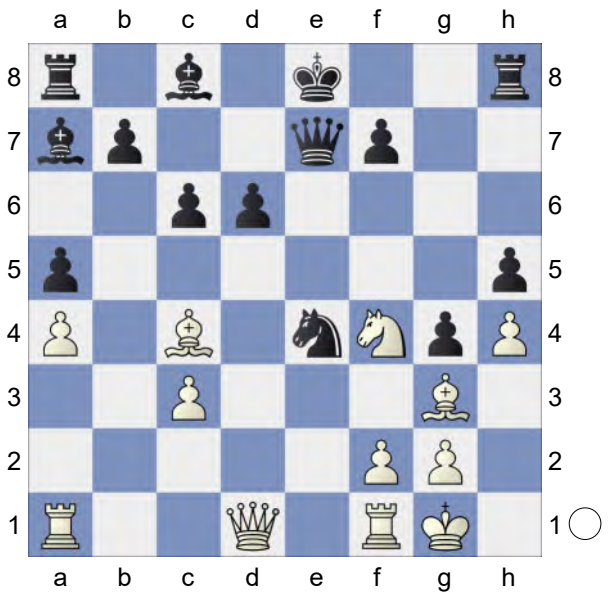
16.bxc3 Nce5 17.Nf4 c6
[17...Nxc4 18.Nxc4 Bb8 19.Qd4±]

18.Ba2 Nc5 19.Nc4 -0.85/23
[19.Re1∓ -0.43/19 is superior.]

19...Nxc4 -1.16/18
[⌓19...Nxe4 -0.85/23 20.Re1 Nxc4 21.Bxc4 Bf5]

20.Bxc4∓ Nxe4

(Diagram)



21.Re1 Black must now prevent Rxe4!

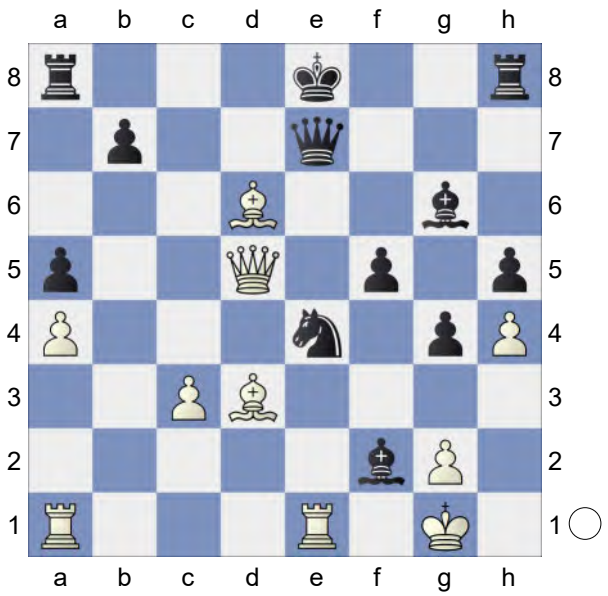
21...Bf5

[21...d5? 22.Bxd5! *(22.Nxd5 cxd5 23.Qxd5 f5±)* 22...Bf5 23.Bxe4 Bxe4 24.Nxh5! Bxf2+ 25.Bxf2+-]

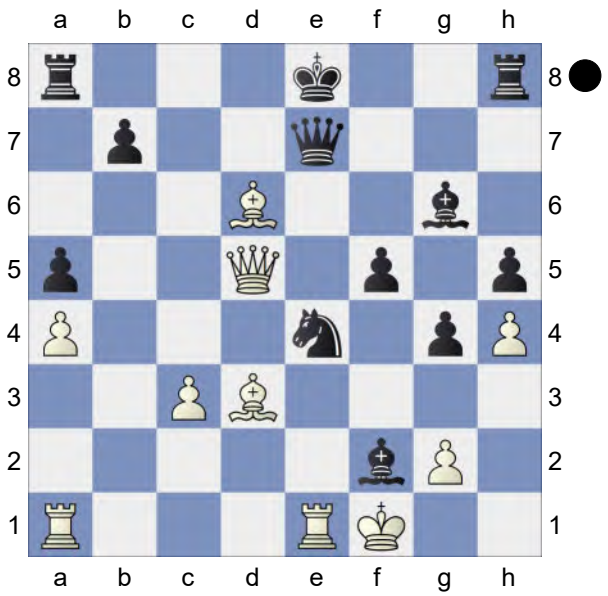
22.Nd5 cxd5 23.Qxd5 Bg6 Strongly threatening ...0-0. **24.Bd3 f5** aiming for ...Bc5. **25.Bxd6** -1.40/24

[⌓25.Rxe4 -1.02/23 fxe4 26.Bxd6 Bxf2+ 27.Kxf2 Qf7+ 28.Qxf7+ Kxf7 29.Bc4+ Kf6 30.Bc5]

25...Bxf2+



26.Kf1



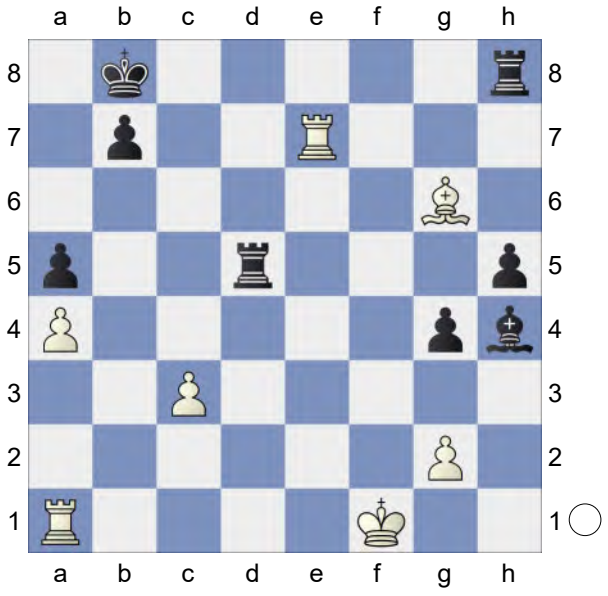
0-0-0!

[26...Qxh4 leads to mate. 27.Bb5+ Kd8 28.Be5+ Ke7 29.Qd7+ Kf8 30.Qg7#]

27.Bxe4 Intending Qc4+ and mate.

[Don't blunder 27.Qc4+? Bc5 28.Qxc5+ Nxc5-+]

27...Rxd6 28.Bxf5+ Kb8 29.Rxe7 Rxd5 30.Bxg6 Bxh4

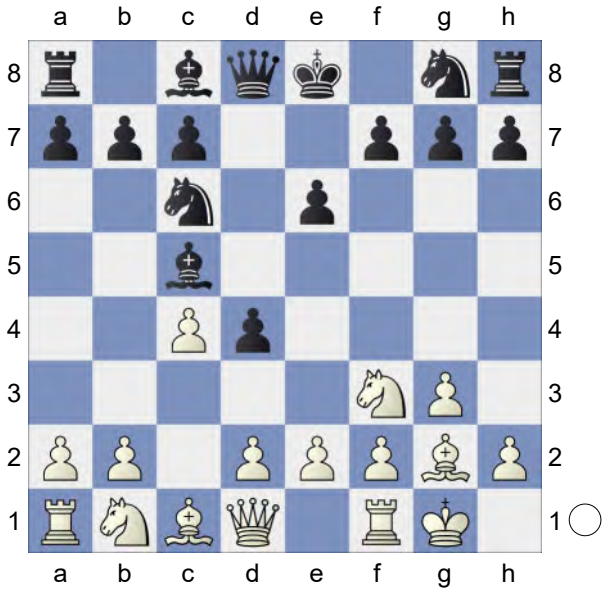


Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

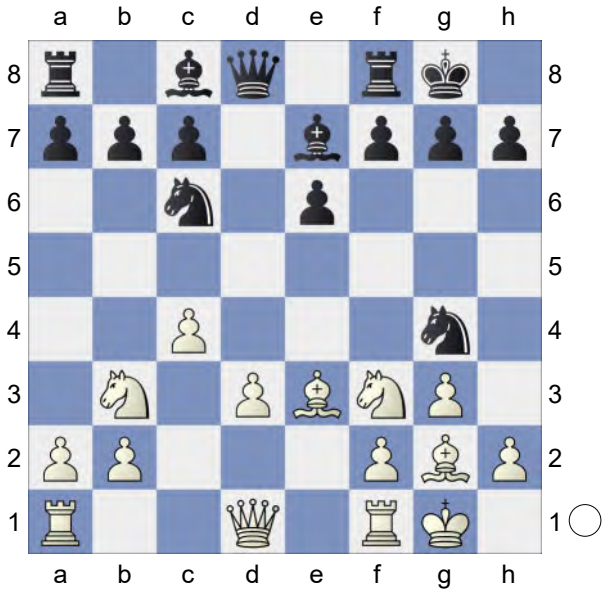
½-½

67 **A13**
□ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
■ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
Tata Steel Challengers (10.4) 29.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

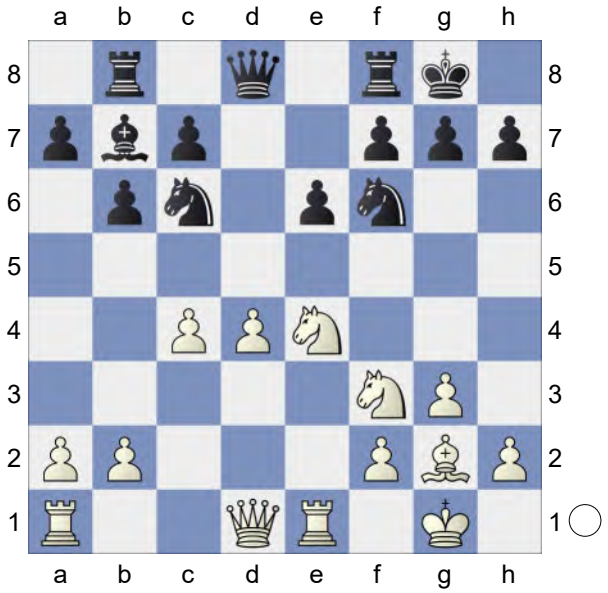
A13: English Opening: 1...e6 **1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.0-0 Bc5**



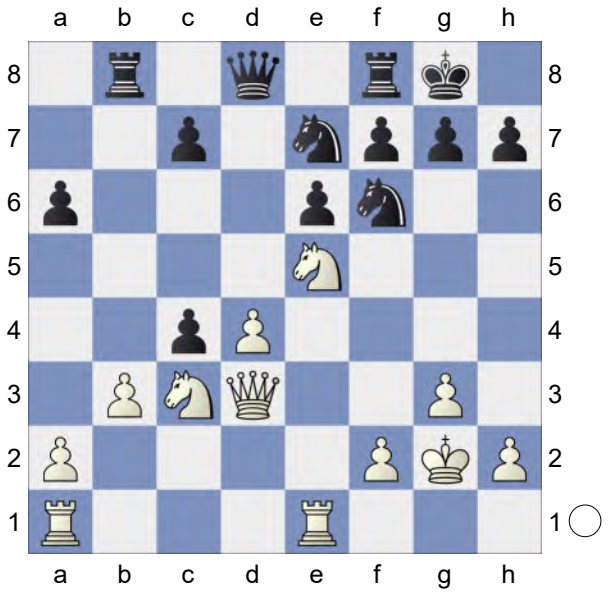
6.d3 Nf6 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Nb3 The position is equal. **8...Be7 9.e3 dxe3 10.Bxe3 Ng4**



11.Bc5 Bxc5 12.Nxc5 b6 13.Ne4 Bb7 14.d4 Prevents Nge5. **14...Rb8 15.Re1 Nf6**



16.Nc3 Ne7 17.Ne5 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 a6N
[18...c6 19.Qd3 #11 2) ...e6 -...d5 Setups-1...e6 - 2...d5]
19.Qd3 b5 20.b3 bxc4

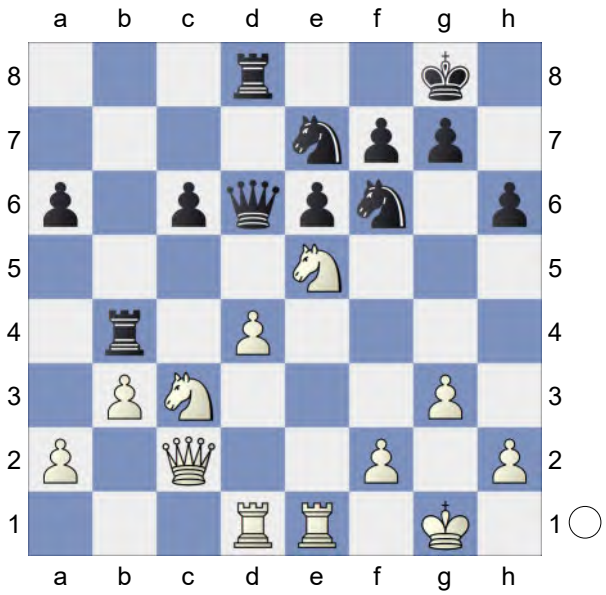


21.Qxc4 Qd6 22.Rad1 Rfd8 23.Kg1 Rb4 24.Qe2 h6 0.26/20
[24...Rxd4? 25.Rxd4 Qxd4 26.Rd1+-]
[24...Nf5 -0.15/21 should be

considered.]

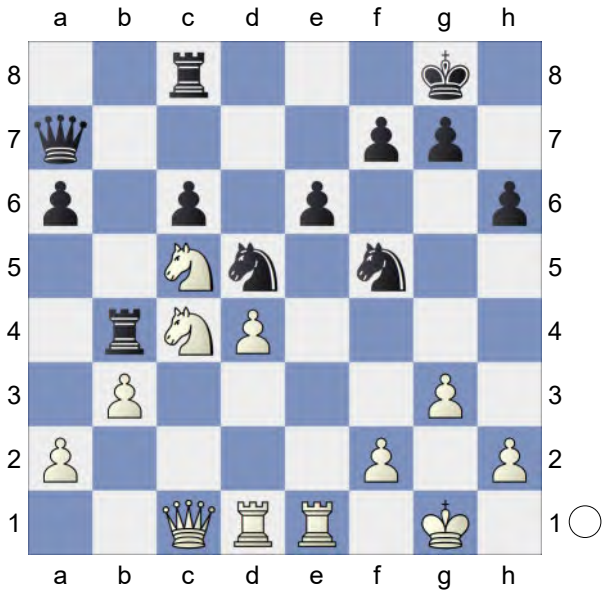
25.Qc2 c6

[25...Rxd4? 26.Rxd4 Qxd4 27.Rd1+-]



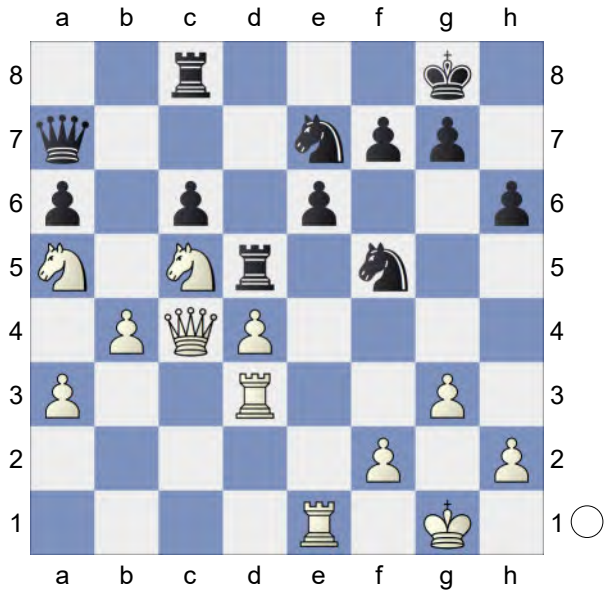
26.Nc4 Qb8 27.Na4 Nf5 28.Qc3 Nd5 29.Qc1 Rc8 30.Nc5 Qa7 0.41/20

[30...Rb5= 0.01/20 deserves consideration.]



31.a3± Rbb8 32.b4 Rd8 33.Na5 Rbc8 34.Rd3 Nde7 35.Qc4 Rd5

(Diagram)



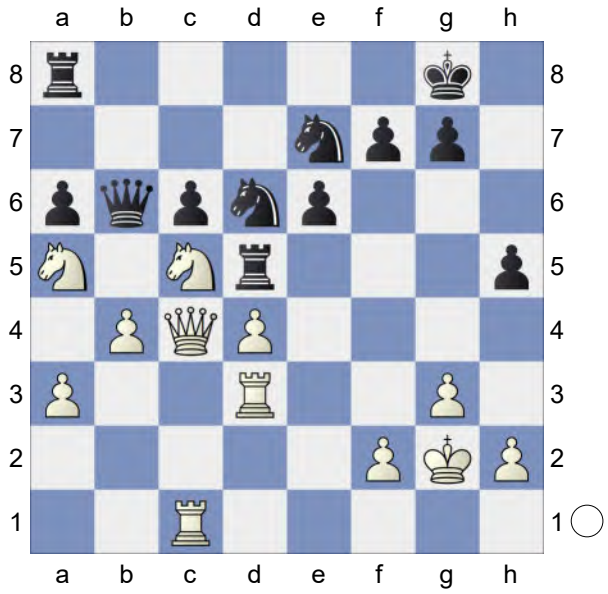
36.Red1 Rcd8 37.Kg2 h5 0.97/22

[Better is 37...Ra8!± 0.41/21]

38.Nab3 0.37/21

[White should play 38.Qxa6± 0.97/22 Qxa6 39.Nxa6]

38...Ra8 39.Rc1 Qb6 40.Na5 Nd6



41.Qc2 Ndf5 42.Rcd1 Rad8 43.Qc4 0.01/19

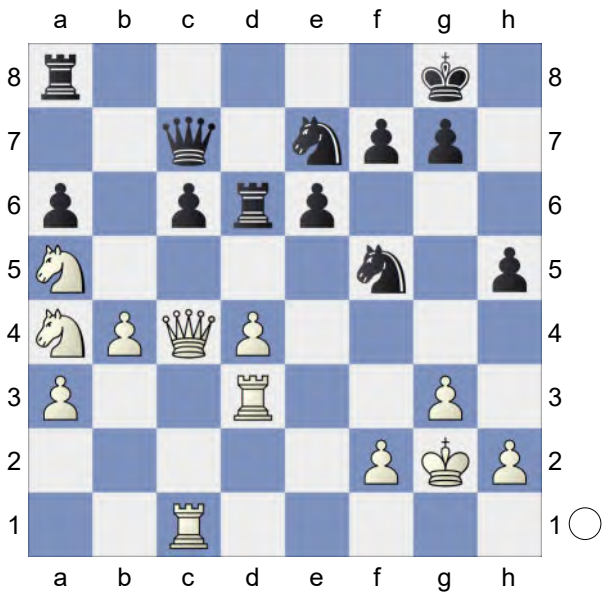
[43.Nc4± 0.57/19 Qa7 44.Qb2]

43...Ra8 0.39/20

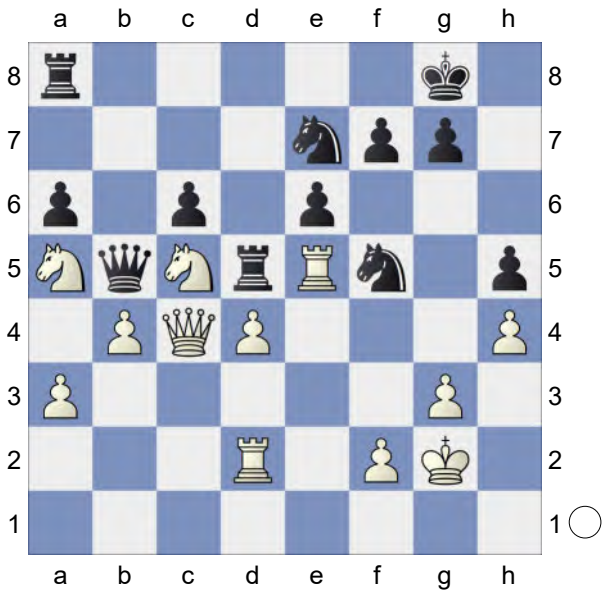
[43...Qa7!= 0.01/19]

44.Na4 Qc7 45.Rc1 Rd6

(Diagram)

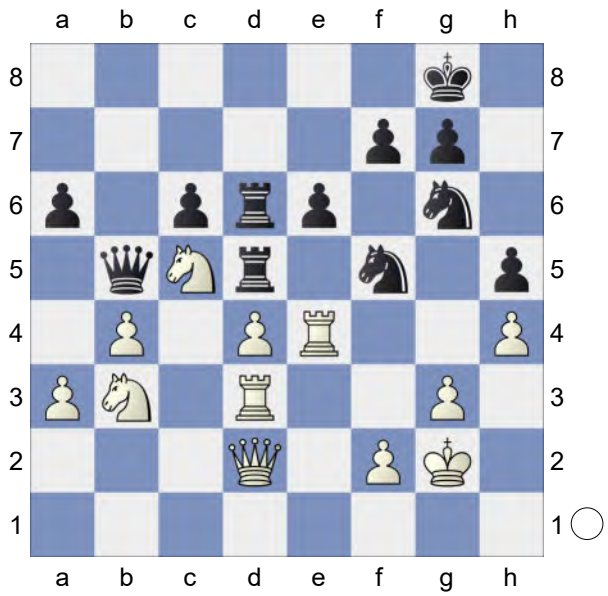


46.Nc5 Qb6 47.h4 Qa7 48.Re1 0x0.0021618a2b75dp-1022s more active pieces. **48...Rd5 49.Re5 Qb6 50.Rd2 Qb5**

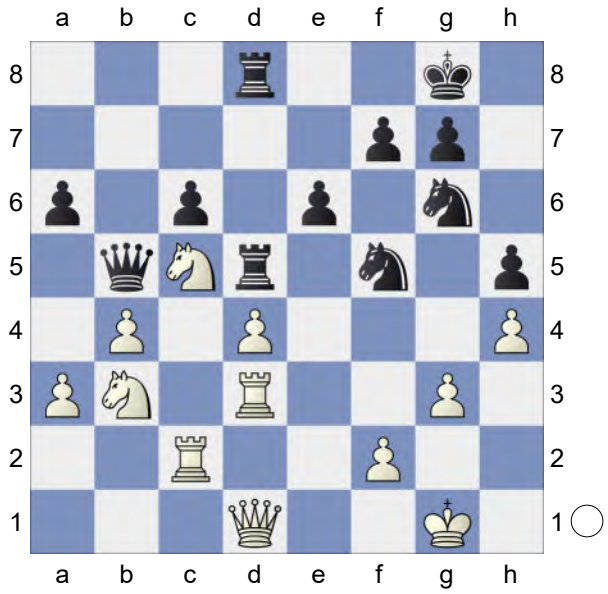


51.Qc3 Rad8 52.Nab3 R8d6 0.81/20
[52...Nd6± 0.31/17]
53.Rd3 0.42/19
[53.a4± 0.81/20 Qb6 54.Qc4]
53...Qb6 54.Qd2 Ng6 55.Re4 Qb5

(Diagram)

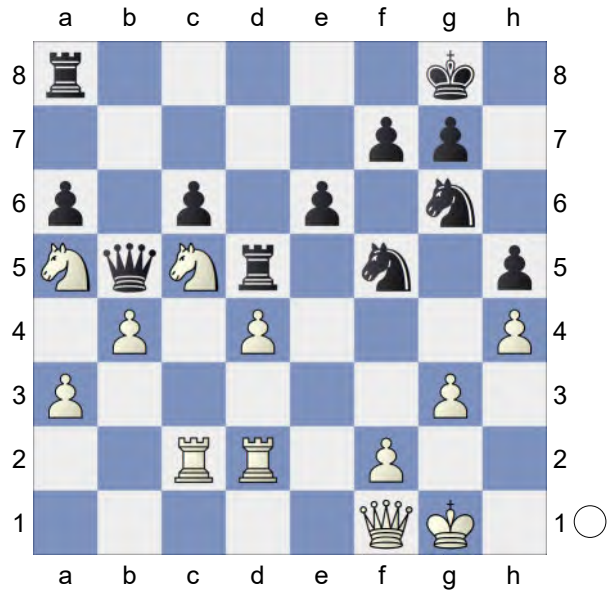


56.Kg1 Rd8 57.Qd1 Nd6
[57...e5!?]
58.Re2 Nf5 0.35/19
[58...Nc4= -0.23/20]
59.Red2 Nd6 Prevents Ne4. **60.Rc2 Nf5**

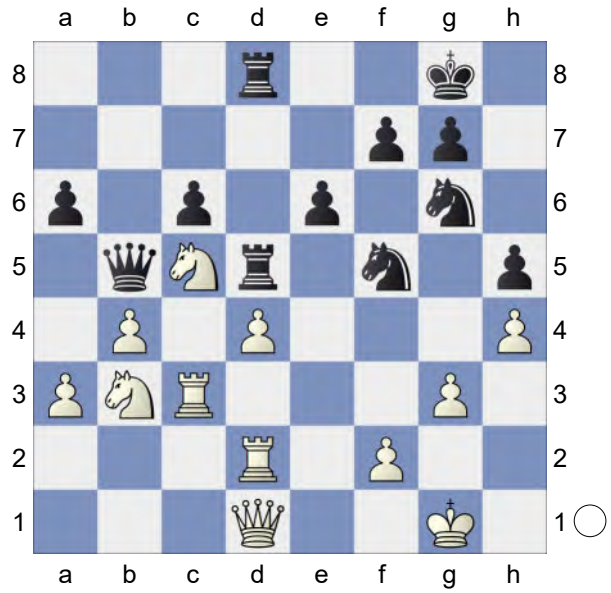


61.Rdd2
[Reject 61.Qxh5 Ne3! 62.Qe2 Nxc2 63.Qxc2 Ne7∓]
61...Nd6 Against Ne4 **62.Na5** Against Nc4. Strongly threatening Nxc6!
62...Nf5 63.Nab3 -0.01/18
[63.Ncb3!± 0.34/22]

63...Nd6!= 64.Qf1 Ra8 65.Na5 Nf5

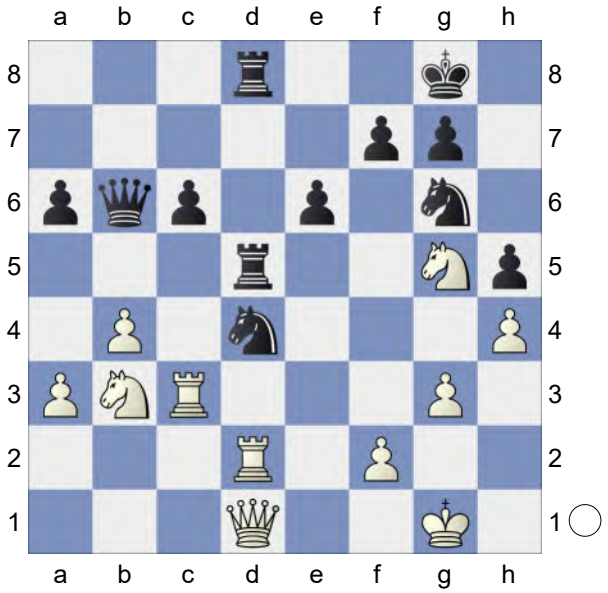


66.Nab3 Nge7 67.Qd1 Rad8 0.66/20
[67...Nd6= 0.26/20 feels stronger.]
68.Rc3 0.22/18
[68.Ne4!± 0.66/20 might be stronger.]
68...Ng6 0.80/19
[68...Qb6= 0.22/18]

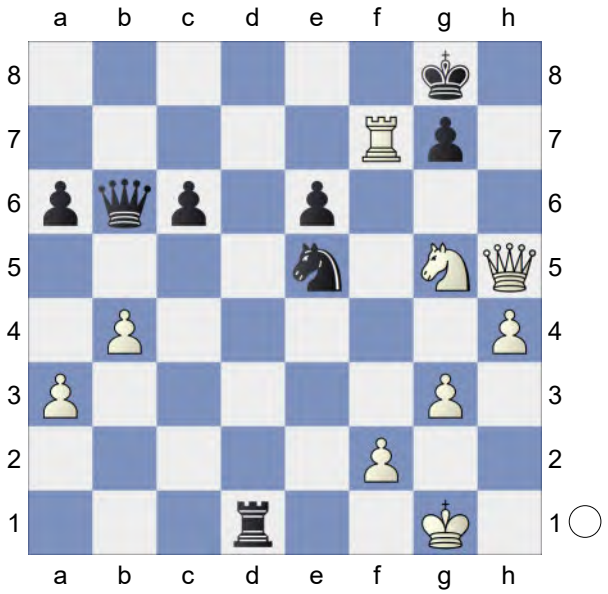


69.Ne4!± Qb6 1.36/20
[69...Nh6!± 0.56/20]
70.Ng5
[Worse is 70.Qxh5 Nxg3 71.Qg4 Nxe4 72.Qxe4 Ne7∓]

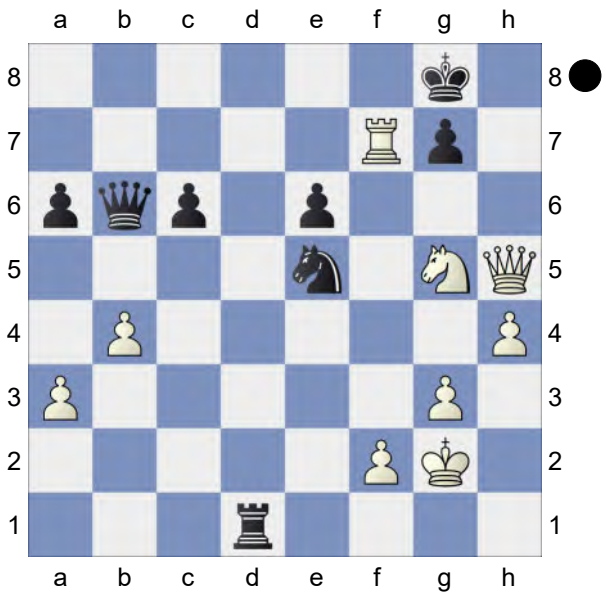
70...Nxd4? 2.95/25
[70...Nf8± 1.28/20 was worth a try.]



This move loses the game for Black.
71.Nxd4+-
[Not 71.Qxh5 Nxb3 72.Rxd5 Rxd5±]
71...Rxd4 72.Rxd4 Rxd4 73.Qxh5
Rf3 is the strong threat. **73...Rd2?** 13.93/22
[73...Rd5 2.89/23 74.Rf3 Rf5 75.Rxf5 exf5 76.Nxf7 c5]
74.Rf3 Ne5 75.Rxf7 Rd1+



76.Kg2



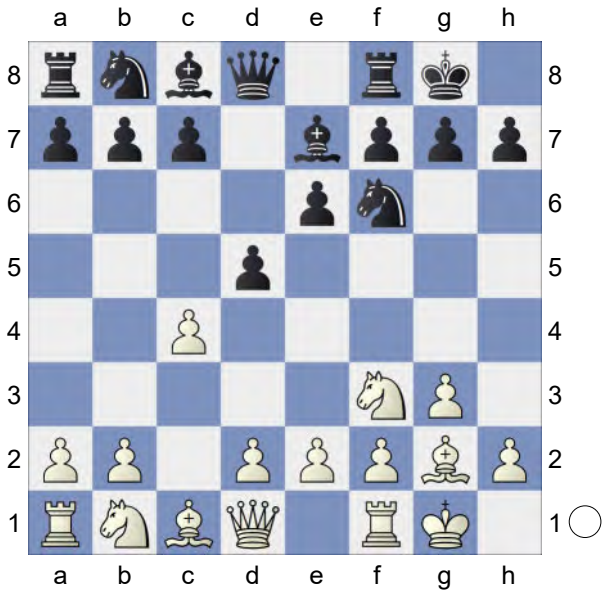
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)

1-0

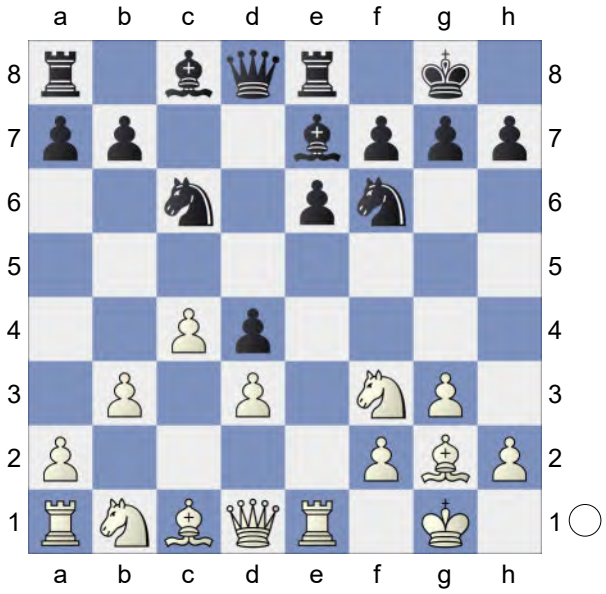
68 **A14**
□ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
■ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
Tata Steel Challengers (10.5) 29.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

A14: English Opening: 1...e6 with b3 by White **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5**
[3...a6 4.Bg2 b5 5.b3 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.Bb2 0-0 8.Nc3 b4 9.Na4 d6 10.d4 Be4 11.a3 a5 12.Ne1 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 d5 14.Qc2 bxa3 15.Bxa3 Bxa3 16.Rxa3 Nc6 17.e3 e5 18.dxe5 Espig,L (2429)-Van Wely,L (2654) Deutschland 91/(25) 2003 CI1-130 [RR]]
4.Bg2 Be7N
[4...g6 5.b3 Bg7 6.Bb2 0-0 7.0-0 b6 8.d3 Bb7 9.Qc2 c5 10.Nbd2 Nc6 11.a3 d4 12.Rfe1 e5 13.e3 Qd7 14.exd4 exd4 15.Re2 Rfe8 16.Rae1 Rxe2 17.Rxe2 Re8 18.Rxe8+ Qxe8 19.Kf1 Legendmike (2089)-Greecechess22 (2061) lichess.org 2020 [GM Ioannis Papaioannou] ½-½ (39)]
[4...Bd6 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 d4 7.Bb2 c5 8.e3 e5 9.exd4 cxd4 10.d3 Nc6 11.Ba3 Re8 12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.Nbd2 Bf5 14.Qb1 h6 15.a3 a5 16.Rc1 Nd7 8) Catalan-Catalan Reti 1… e6 Against Everything 2024]
5.0-0 0-0

(Diagram)

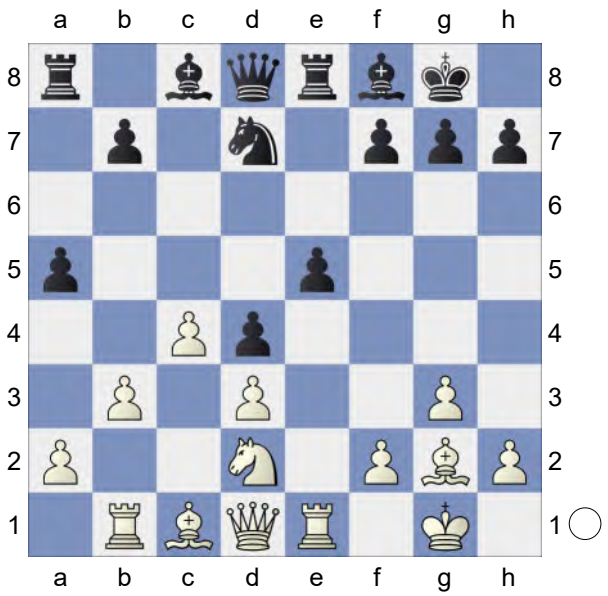


6.b3 d4 7.e3 c5 8.exd4 cxd4 9.d3 Nc6 Black has an edge. **10.Re1 Re8**

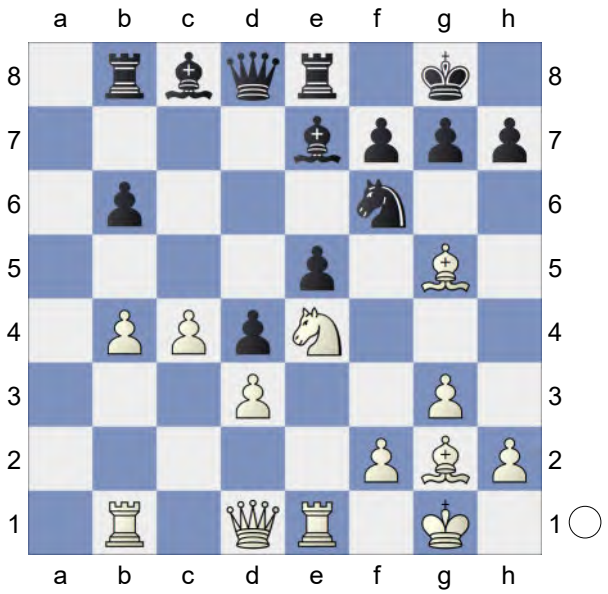


11.Ne5 -0.35/19
[11.a3= -0.04/19]
11...Nxe5∓ 12.Rxe5 Nd7 13.Re1 Bf8 0.26/20
[⌓13...a5 -0.14/17]
14.Nd2 e5 15.Rb1 a5

(Diagram)

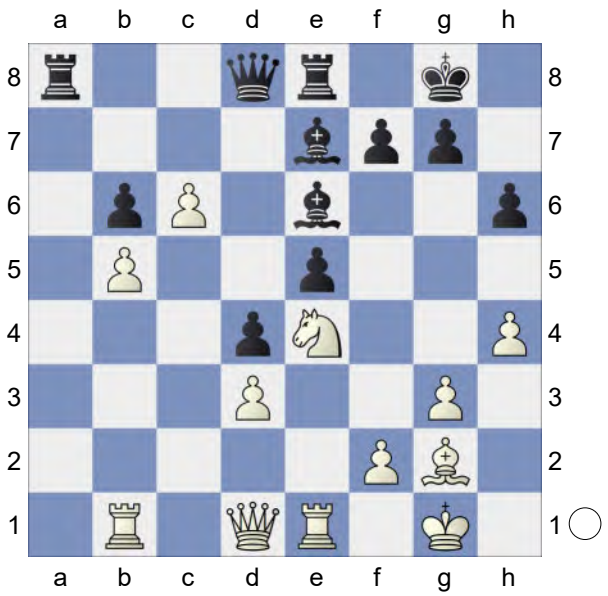


16.a3 Rb8 17.b4 axb4 18.axb4 b6 Against c5 **19.Ne4 Nf6** 0.56/19
[19...Bb7= 0.18/18 was preferrable.]
20.Bg5± Be7

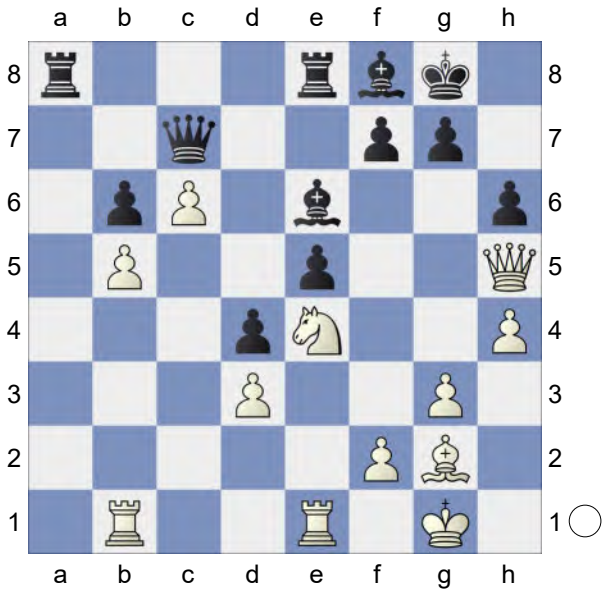


21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.c5 Be7 Against Nd6 **23.c6 Be6 24.b5 Ra8 25.h4 h6** 1.06/19
[25...Ra3± 0.59/19 should be considered.]

(Diagram)

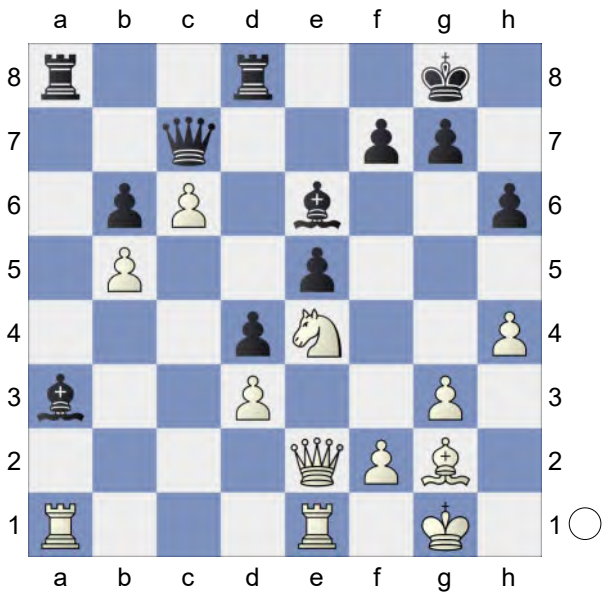


26.Qh5!± Qc7 27.Nd2 Bd6 28.Ne4 -0.01/19
[28.Nc4!± 1.11/20]
28...Bf8 1.06/21
[28...Be7!= -0.01/19 remains equal.]

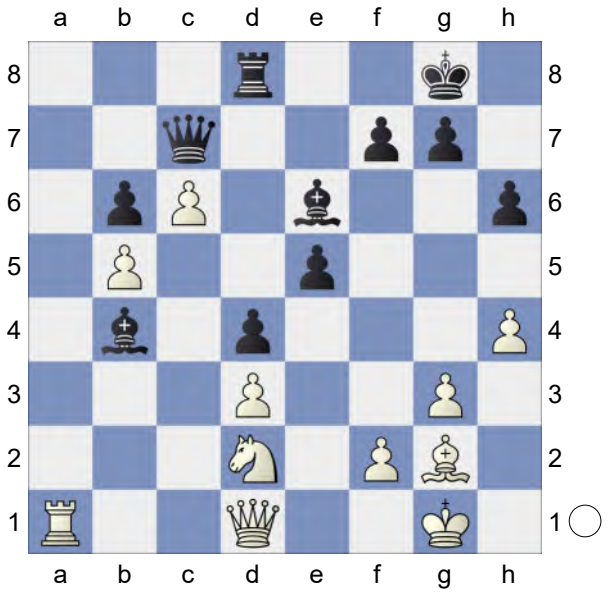


29.Ra1 0.60/21
[29.g4!± 1.06/21]
29...Red8 30.Qe2 &Bianco is more active. **30...Ba3** 0.89/19
[30...Bb4± 0.56/18]

(Diagram)

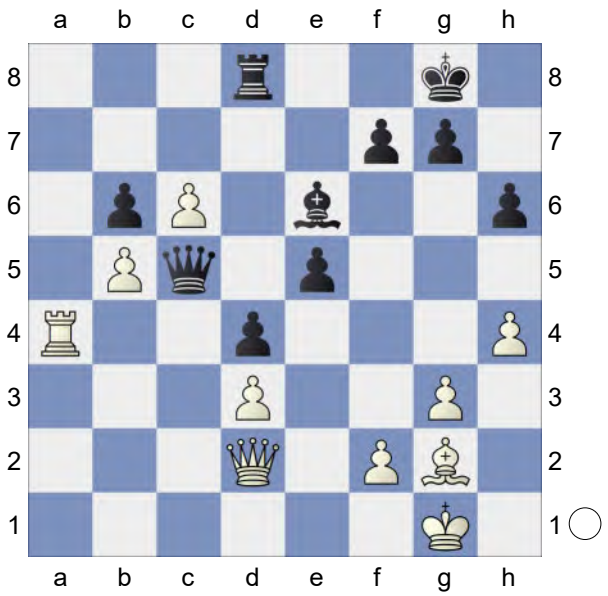


31.Nd2 Bb4 32.Reb1 Ra5 1.35/21
33.Qd1 0.70/20
[33.Rxa5± 1.35/21 Bxa5 34.Ra1]
33...Bc3 1.47/21
[33...Qe7± 0.70/20]
34.Rxa5 Bxa5 35.Ra1 Bb4

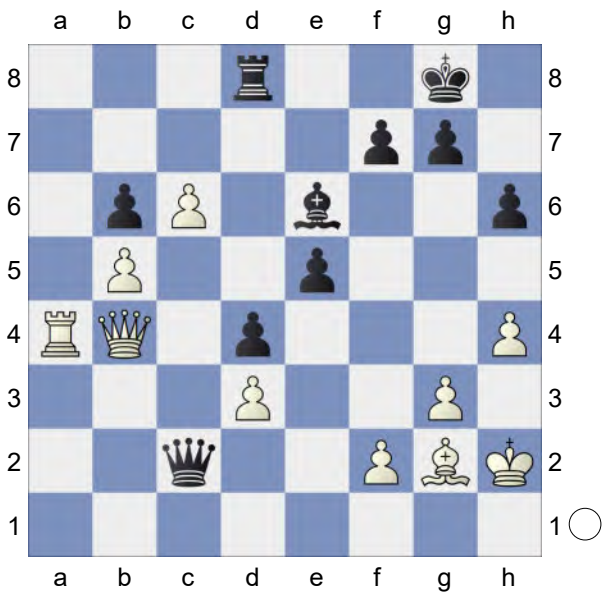


36.Ra4 Qe7 37.Qc2 Bxd2 38.Qxd2 Qc5

(Diagram)

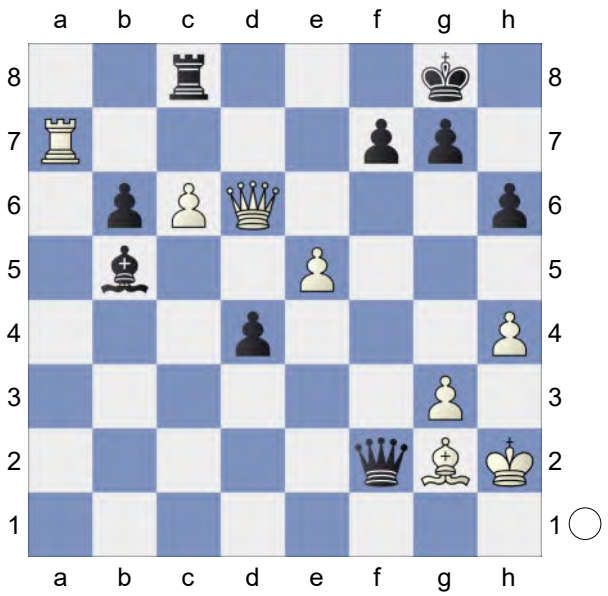


Prevents Qc1. **39.Qb4** 0.74/22
[⌓39.Qb2! 1.25/23]
39...Qc1+ 40.Kh2 And now Ra6 would win. **40...Qc2**

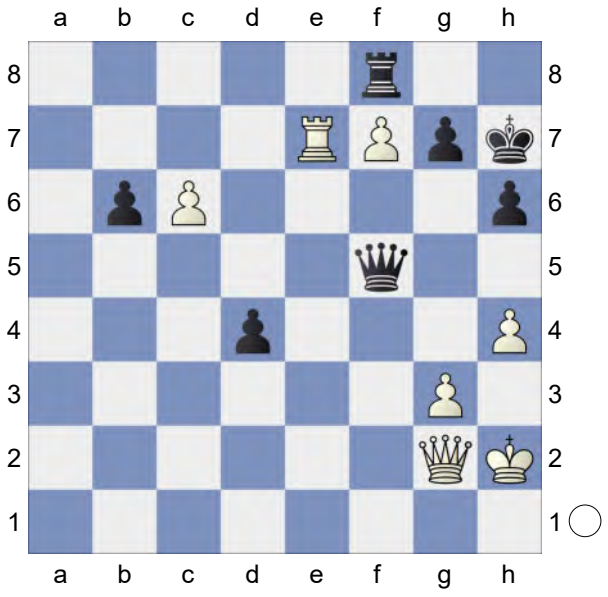


41.Qe7!↑ Black is under strong pressure.
41...Rc8 42.Ra7 aiming for Qd6.
42...Qxf2 43.Qd6 Inhibits Bd5. **43...e4 44.dxe4 Bc4** (→ ...Bf1) **45.e5! Bxb5?** 2.88/24
[Better is 45...Kh7± 0.45/22]

(Diagram)

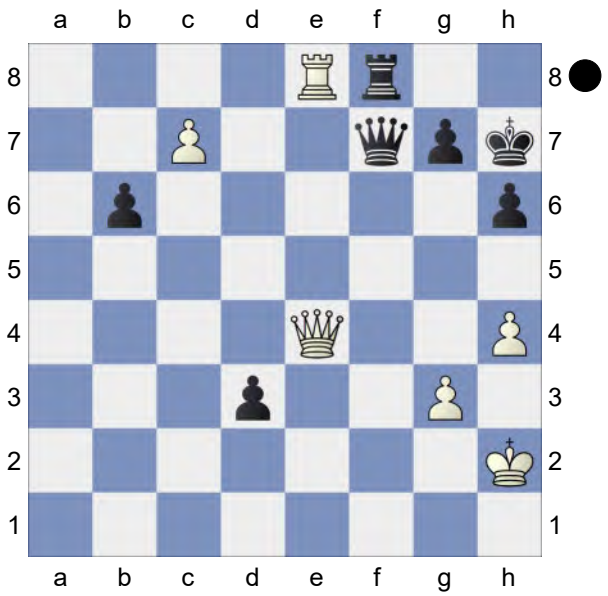


Black cannot hold the game after this. **46.e6+- Bf1?** 7.35/25
[46...Bxc6 2.65/20 47.exf7+ Kh8 48.Qxc6 Rxc6 49.Ra8+ Kh7]
47.exf7+ White is clearly winning. **47...Kh7 48.Qd5** Re7 is the strong threat. **48...Bxg2 49.Qxg2 Qf5 50.Re7 Rf8**



51.c7 d3 52.Re8 Qxf7 53.Qe4+

(Diagram)



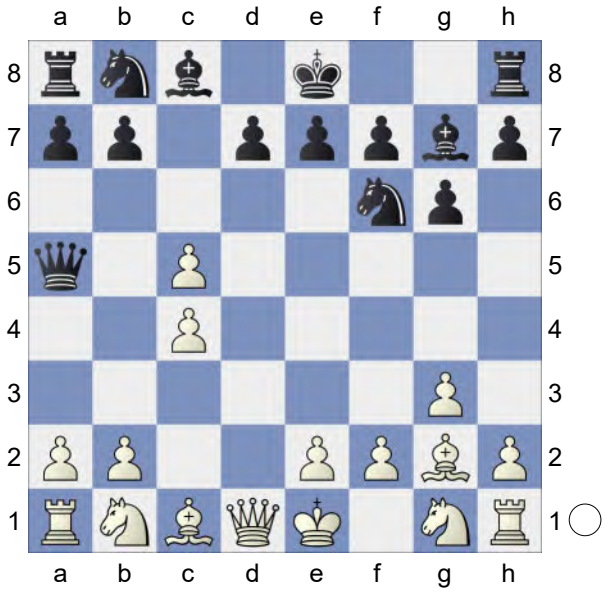
Weighted Error Value: White=0. 12 (very precise) /Black=0.28 (precise)
1-0

69 **E60**
□ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
■ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
Tata Steel Challengers (10.6) 29.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

E60: King's Indian: Unusual lines and Fianchetto Variation without Nc3 Tukmakov,V: 'Inf 26/693' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c5 4.dxc5N**

[4.Nf3 cxd4 *(4...Nc6 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Nc2 h5 10.h4 0-0 11.Bg5 Ne5 12.b3 Bc6 13.Qd2 Qd7 14.Rac1 Rfc8 15.Rfd1 Qd8 16.Nb4 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Nh7 18.Bh6 Bh8 19.f3* Grasser,J (2595)-3.Nf3 d6_31964 (2478) Rio de Janeiro 2006 French [Nastasio,Davide] ½-½ (51) *)* 5.Nxd4 d5 *(5...Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.0-0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 10.Qd3 a6 11.Bg5 Rb8 12.a4 Be6 13.b3 Qa5 14.Qd2 Rfd8 15.Rfd1 Ng4 16.Rac1 Qb6 17.Ne4 f6 18.Bf4 Qxb3 19.h3 Ne5 20.Bxe5* Edouard,R (2652)-Short,N (2698) Istanbul 2012 CBM 151 [Edouard,Romain] ½-½ (59) *dxe5 21.Qxd8+ Rxd8 22.Rxd8+ Kf7 23.Rdd1 Bh6 24.e3 Bc8 25.Nc5 Qb6 26.Nxb7 e4 27.Nd8+ Kg7 28.c5 Qc7 29.Rc3 f5 30.c6 Bg5 31.h4 Bf6 32.Rc5 e6 33.Nb7 Be7 34.Rcc1 h6 35.Nc5* Campos,J (2653)-Spens,W (2582) London 2013 MBM: Réti [Liberzon,Vladimir] 1-0 (59) *)* 6.Bg2 e5 *(6...Bg7 7.Nc2 Qa5+ 8.b4 Qc7 9.cxd5 Ng4 10.0-0 Bxa1 11.Nxa1 0-0 12.Nb3 Nd7 13.Qd4 Ngf6 14.Bb2 Qb6 15.Qc3 e5 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.N1d2 e5 18.Nc4 Qe6 19.Nc5 Qe7 20.Rd1 Nxc5 21.Nxe5* Adams,M (2615)-Shirov,A (2610) Biel 1991 CBM 025 [Ftacnik,Lubomir] 0-1 (61)*)* 7.Nf3 d4 8.0-0 Nc6 9.e3 Bg4 10.Qb3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Qd7 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.exd4 exd4 14.Bg5 Be7 15.Qf3 Ng8 16.Re1 0-0-0 17.Bxe7 Nxe7 18.Qxf7 Nf5 Tukmakov,V-Beliavsky,A Vilnius 1978 CI1-130 [Tukmakov,Vladimir] 1-0 (41)]

4...Bg7 5.Bg2 Qa5+

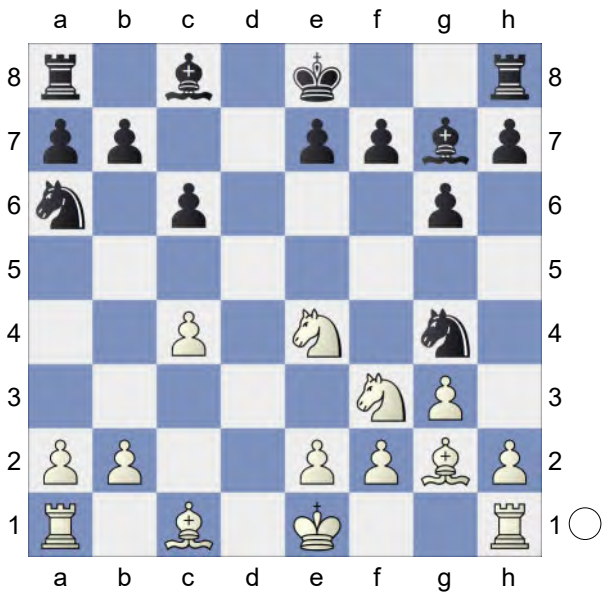


6.Nc3 Qxc5 7.Qa4 Ng4 8.Ne4 -0.13/20

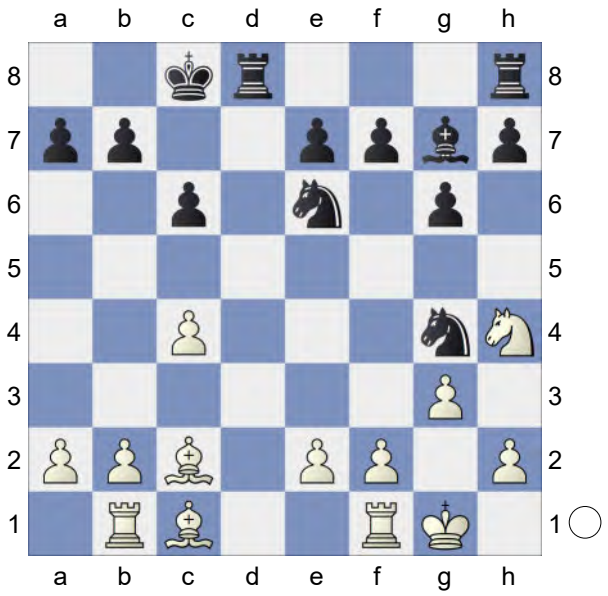
[8.Nh3!± 0.32/19]

8...Qc6= 9.Qxc6 dxc6 10.Nf3 Na6

(Diagram)



11.Rb1 Bf5 12.Nh4 Bxe4 13.Bxe4 0-0-0 14.0-0 Nc5 15.Bc2 Ne6



16.Nf3 Ne5 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Be3 -0.01/20

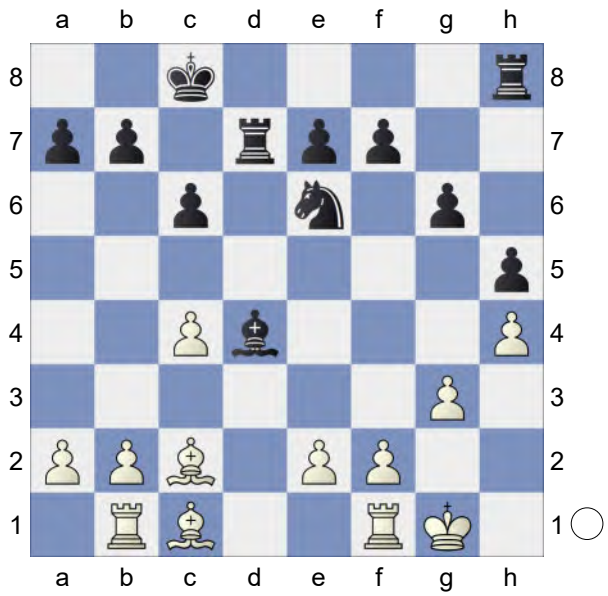
[18.b4± 0.43/17]

18...Bd4 19.Bc1 h5 20.h4

[20.Rd1 seems wilder. h4 21.b4 Kc7 22.b5]

20...Rd7

(Diagram)

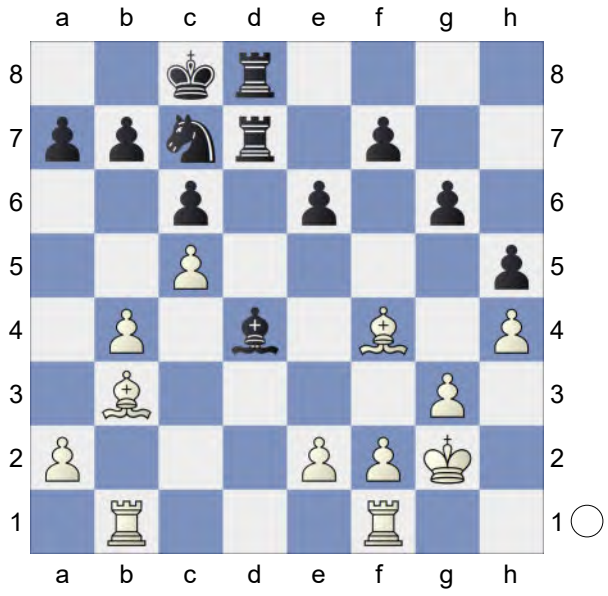


21.b4 Rhd8 22.Kg2 Kb8 0.68/19

[22...Bf6= 0.30/19 is more appropriate.]

23.c5± Nc7 24.Bf4 Kc8 25.Bb3

A strong pair of Bishops. **25...e6**



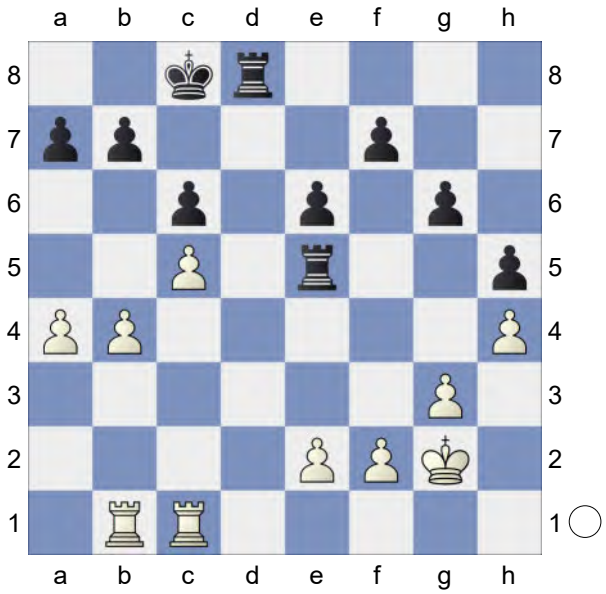
26.Bc4 Bf6 27.Rfc1 Nd5 28.Bxd5 0.27/23

[28.Bh6± 0.68/19 should be considered.]

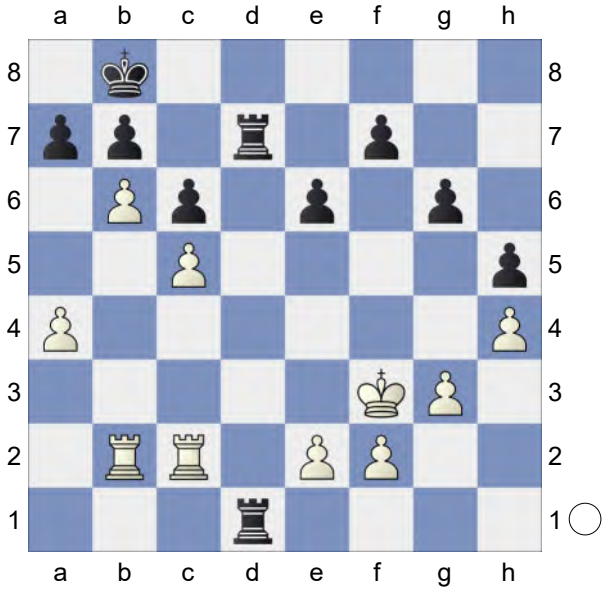
28...Rxd5= 29.a4 Be5 30.Bxe5 -0.36/20

[30.Be3= 0.06/21 deserves consideration.]

30...Rxe5

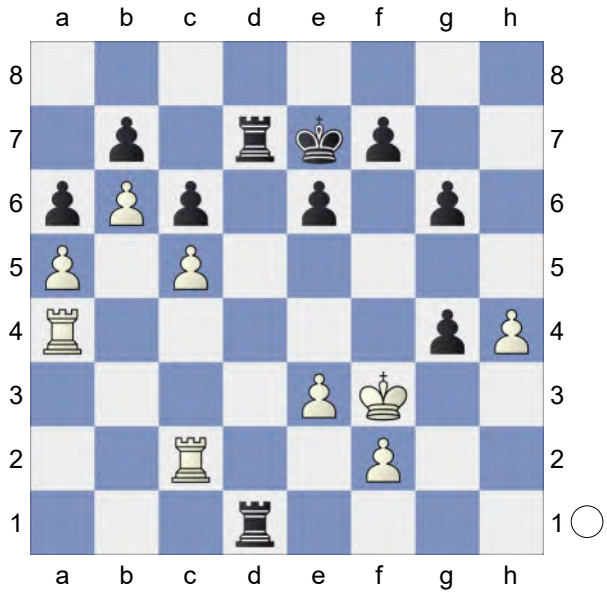


Endgame KRR-KRR **31.Rb2** **Red5**
32.Rcc2 Kc7 33.Kf3 -0.37/21
[33.b5= -0.05/20]
33...Rd1 34.b5 R8d7 35.b6+ Kb8!

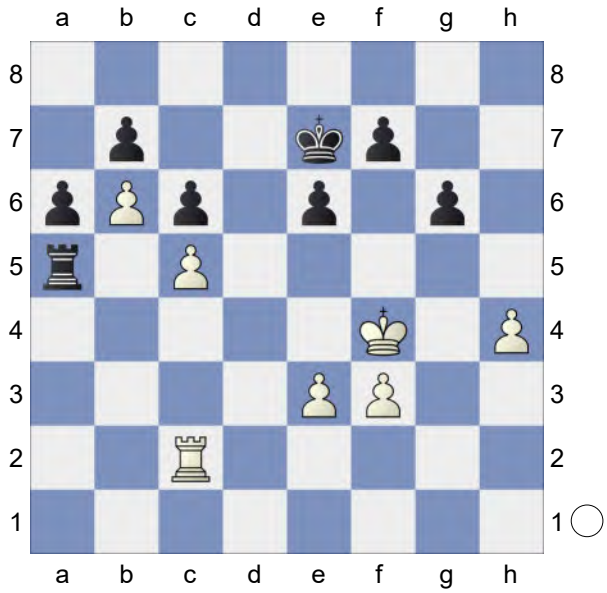


36.a5 a6 37.Ra2 -0.62/20
[37.g4= -0.27/20]
37...Kc8∓ 38.e3 -1.03/22
[38.Kf4∓ -0.58/20 is superior.]
38...Kd8∓ 39.Ra4 Ke7 40.g4 hxg4+

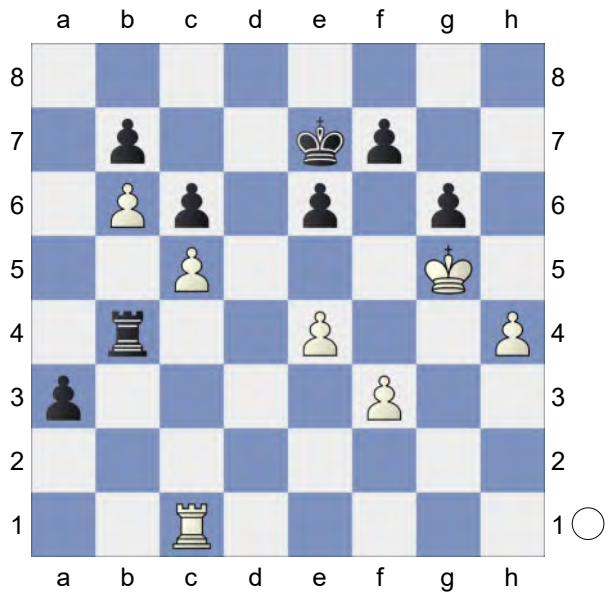
(Diagram)



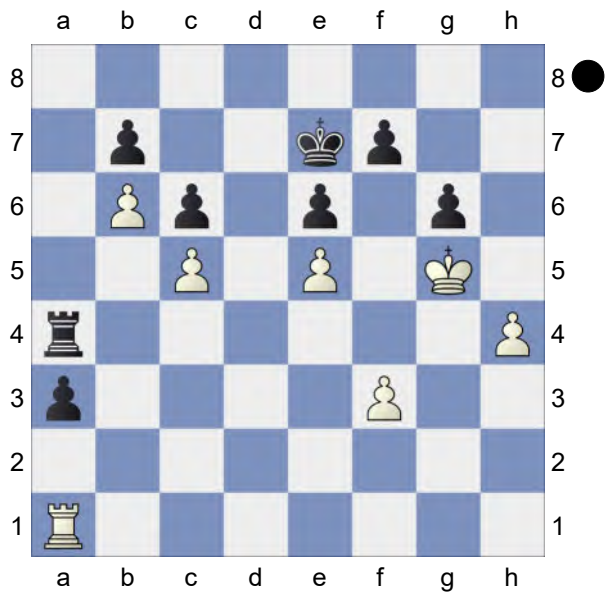
41.Kxg4 R7d2 42.Raa2 -1.49/27
[⌓42.Rxd2 -0.90/22 Rxd2 43.f4]
42...Rg1+ 43.Kf4 -1.76/23
[43.Kh3∓ -1.39/27 was called for. Rxc2 44.Rxc2]
43...Rxc2 -1.33/25
[43...e5+-+ -1.76/23 44.Kxe5 Rg4]
44.Rxc2-+ KR-KR **44...Ra1 45.f3 Rxa5**



46.e4 Rb5 47.Ke5 Rb4 48.Rc1 -2.30/25
[⌓48.Rc3 -1.78/23]
48...a5 49.Kf4 a4 50.Kg5 a3
(Diagram)

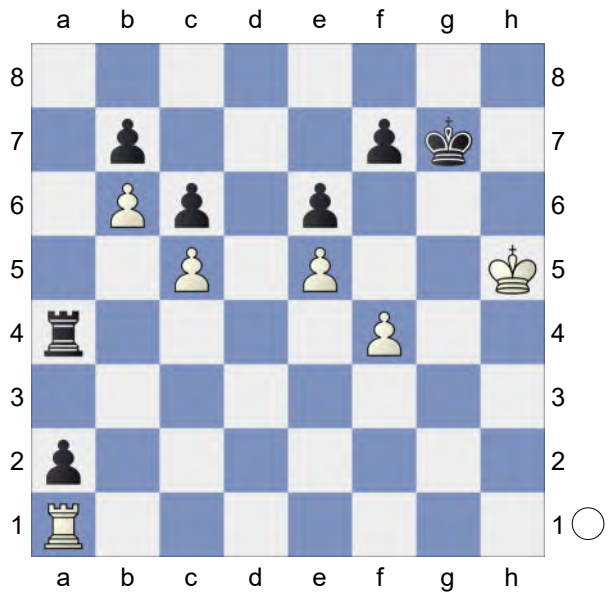


51.Ra1 Ra4 Threatens to win with ...a2.
52.e5? -5.03/27
[52.Ra2 -2.80/25]

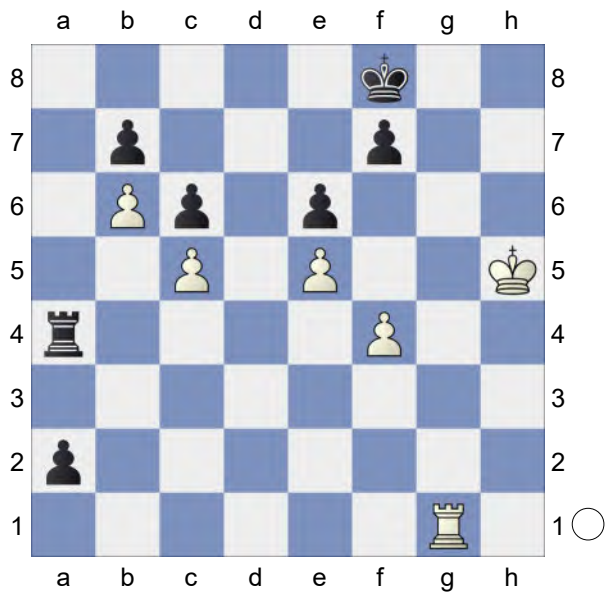


52...a2 53.f4 Kf8 54.h5 gxh5 55.Kxh5 Kg7

(Diagram)

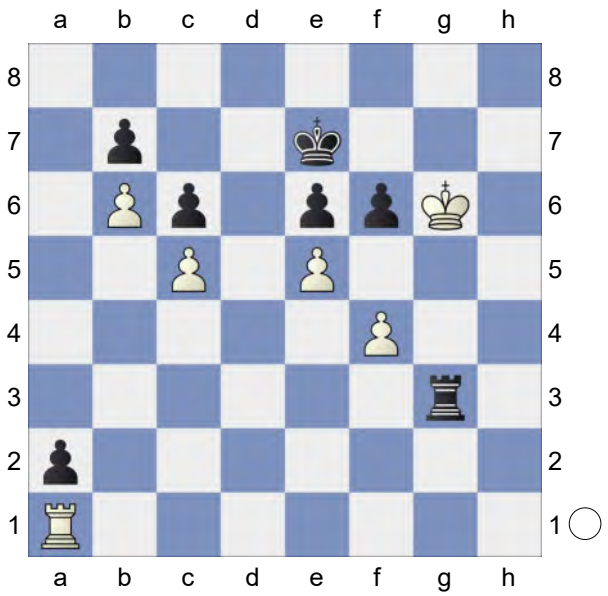


56.Rg1+ Kf8? -0.01/22
[56...Kh7-+ -4.20/30 57.Ra1 Kg7 58.Rg1+ Kf8]

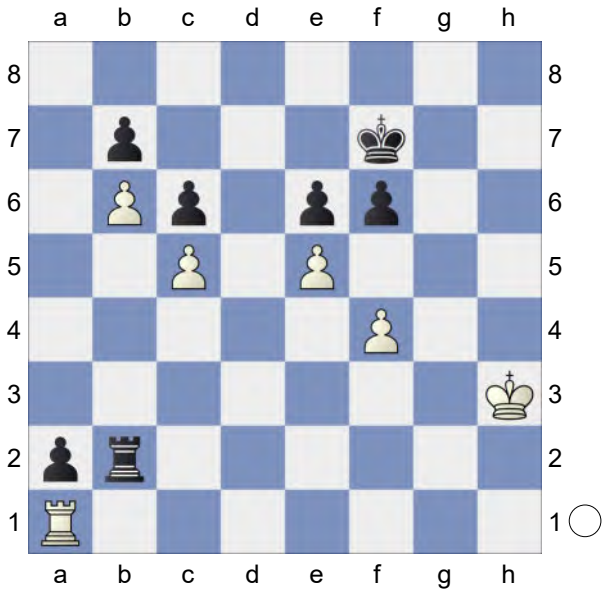


57.Ra1= Ke7 58.Kg5 Ra3 59.Kh5 f6 60.Kg6 Rg3+

(Diagram)

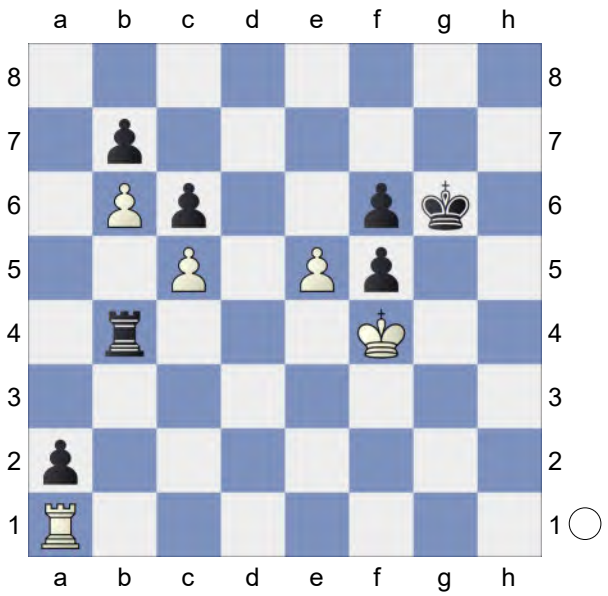


61.Kh5 Ra3? 0.01/26
[Black should play 61...Rg2-+ -7.18/30 62.Kh4 Kf7]
62.Kg6! Rg3+? 0.01/31
[62...fxe5-+ -2.77/35 63.fxe5 Rg3+ 64.Kh6 Rg2]
63.Kh5 Rg2 Black is clearly winning.
64.Kh4 Kf7 65.Kh3 Rb2



66.Kg4 Kg6 67.f5+ exf5+ 68.Kf4 Rb4+

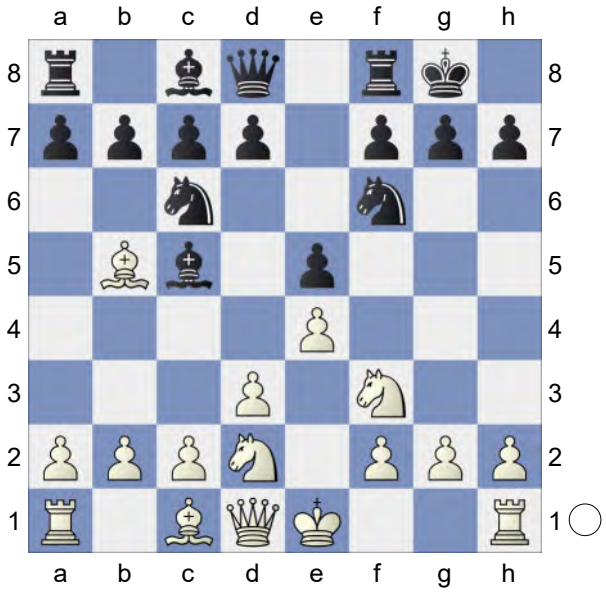
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.26 (precise)
0-1

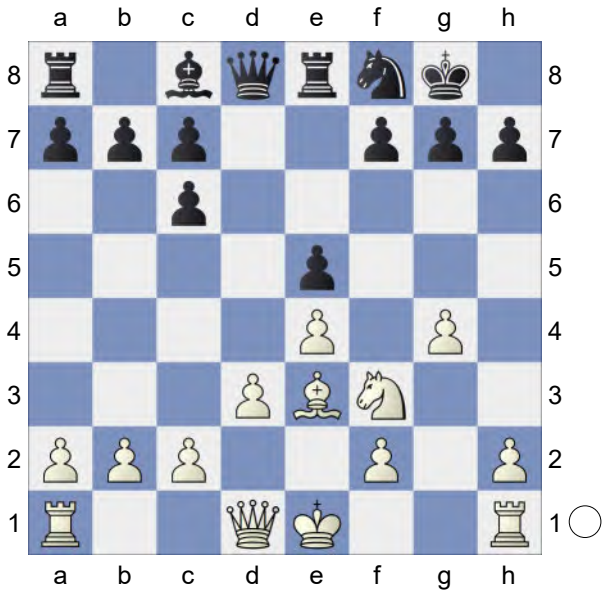
70 **C65**
□ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
■ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
Tata Steel Challengers (10.7) 29.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Nbd2 0-0**



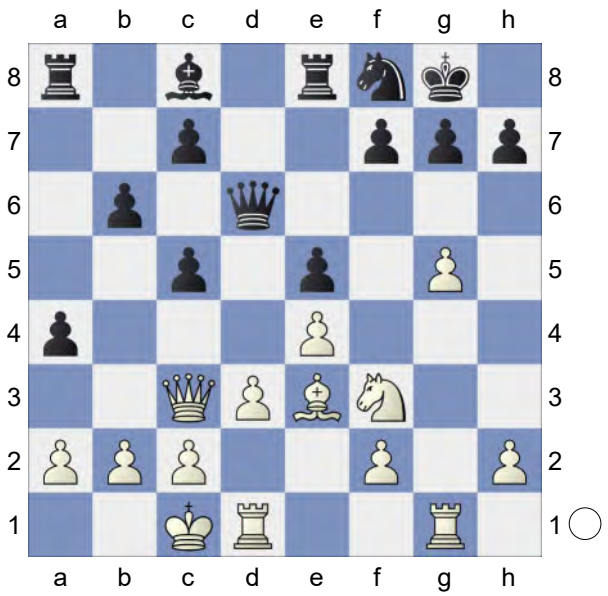
6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.Nc4 Nd7 8.Ne3 The position is equal. **8...Re8 9.g4 Bxe3 10.Bxe3 Nf8**

(Diagram)

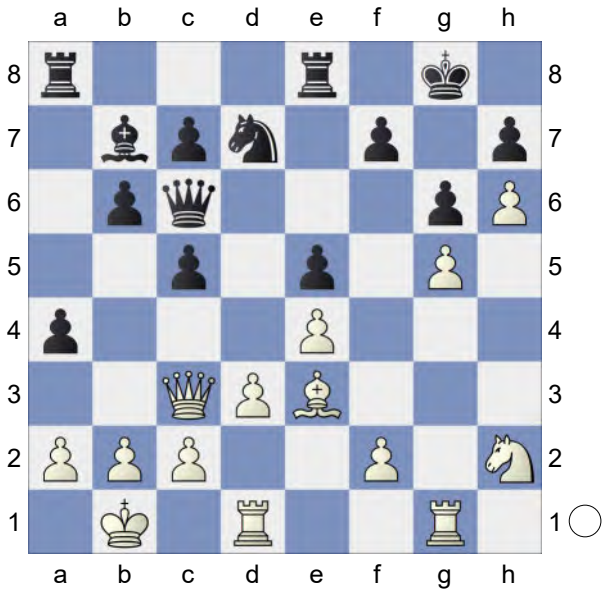


11.Rg1 b6N
[11...Qd6 12.Qd2 a5 13.Nh4 Ne6 14.Nf5 Qb4 15.c3 Qb5 16.0-0-0 c5 17.f4 exf4 18.Bxf4 a4 19.a3 Qc6 20.Be5 Ra6 21.Rdf1 Qd7 22.Nh6+ gxh6 23.Qxh6 f6 24.Bxf6 Qxd3 25.Rf5 Qxe4 26.Rgf1 S,L (2611)-Anton Guijarro,D (2674) Khanty-Mansiysk (m/3-rapid) 142/116 2019 Chess Informant 142 [Abramovic, Bosko] ½-½ (55) Qd3 27.Rg5+ Kf7 28.Qh5+ Kf8 29.Bg7+ Ke7 30.Qf7+ Kd6 31.Rd1 Qxd1+ 32.Kxd1 Nxg5 33.Qxe8 Bxg4+ 34.Kc1 Ne6 35.Bf6 c4 36.Be7+ Ke5 37.Qb5+ Kf4 38.Qxc4+ Kf5 39.Qd3+ Kf4 40.Qg3+ Kf5 41.Qd3+ Chapter C50-Games Game 8 (55)]
12.Qd2 a5 13.0-0-0 c5 14.g5 Qd6 0.43/20
[14...Bh3= 0.01/20]
15.Qc3± a4

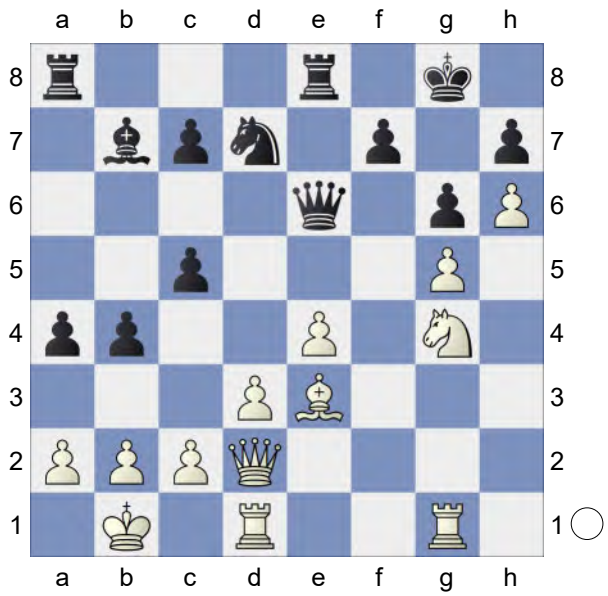
(Diagram)



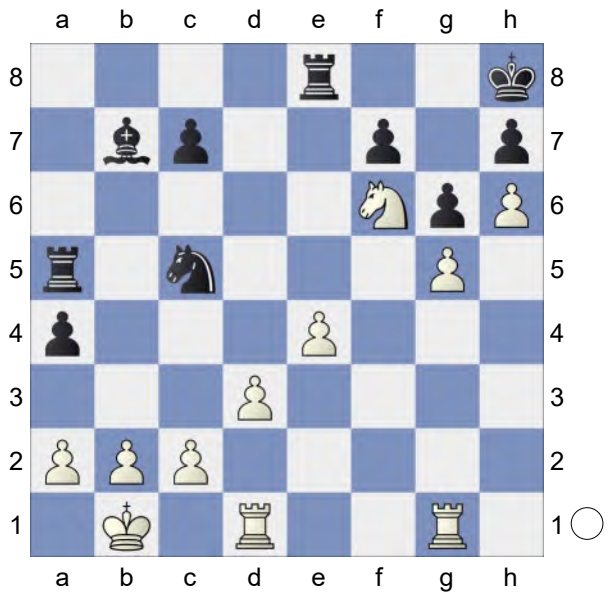
16.h4 Bb7 17.h5 Qe6 18.h6 g6 1.33/21
[18...Ng6!± 0.55/19]
19.Kb1 Nd7 1.43/22
[⌓19...c4 1.06/19]
20.Nh2± Qc6



21.Ng4 b5 22.f4 b4 23.Qd2 0x0.0021618a2b75dp-1022s more active pieces. **23...exf4 24.Bxf4 Qb6 25.Be3 Qe6?** 3.04/18
[25...Qa5± 1.44/19 keeps fighting. 26.Rdf1 Re7]

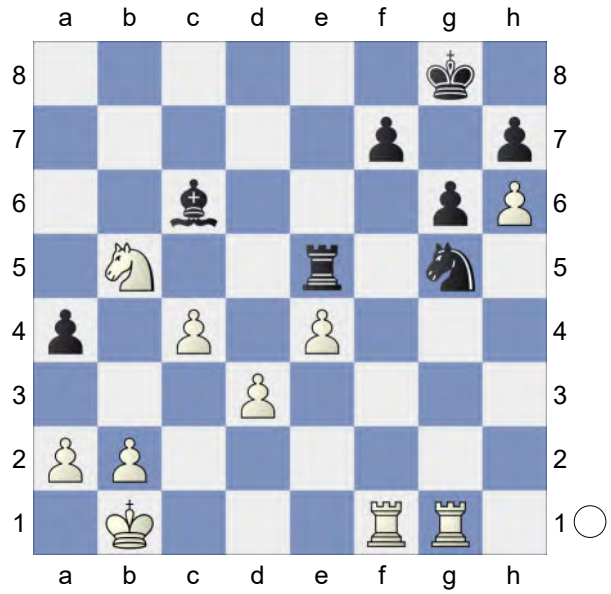


This costs Black the game. **26.Bxc5!+- Nxc5**
[26...a3? 27.Qxb4 Nxc5 28.Nf6+ Kf8 29.Qxc5+ Qd6 30.Qc3+-]
27.Qxb4 Qb6 6.35/20
[27...Nd7 2.89/21 28.Qxb7 a3]
28.Nf6+ White is clearly winning.
28...Kh8 29.Qc3 Qa5 7.25/22
[⌓29...Ne6 4.28/23 30.Nxe8+ Kg8 31.Nf6+ Kh8 32.Nd5+ Qd4 33.Qxd4+ Nxd4 34.Nxc7 Rc8]
30.Qxa5 Rxa5

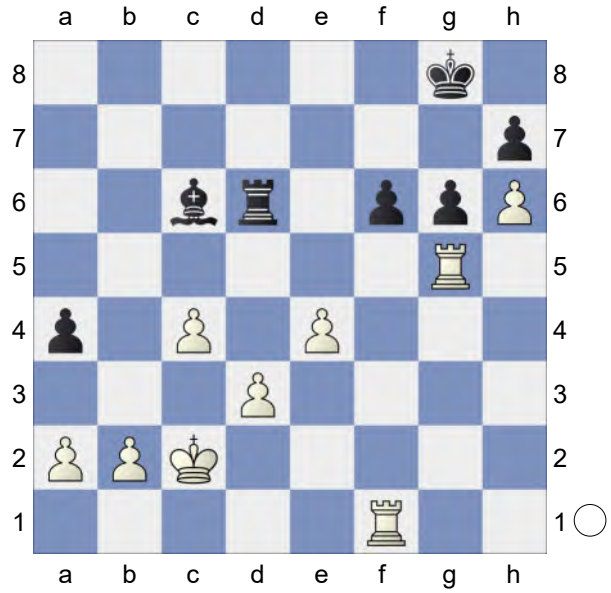


31.Nxe8 Ne6 32.Rdf1 Nxg5 33.Nxc7

Kg8 34.c4 Re5 35.Nb5 Bc6

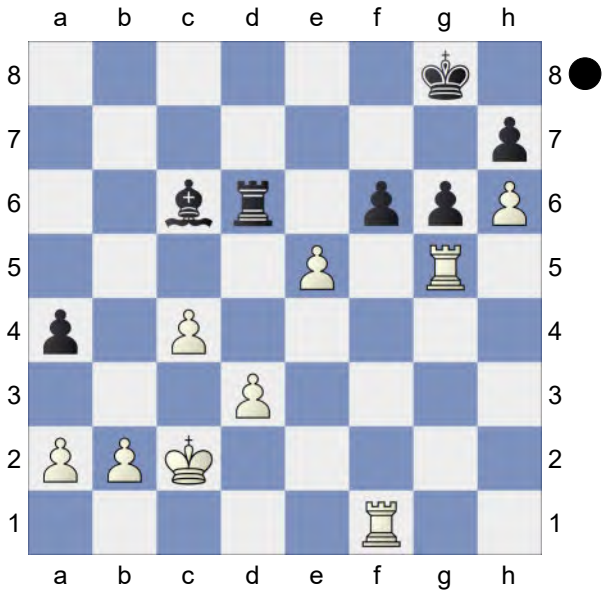


36.Nd6 Re6 37.Rxg5 Rxd6 38.Kc2 f6



39.e5!

(Diagram)

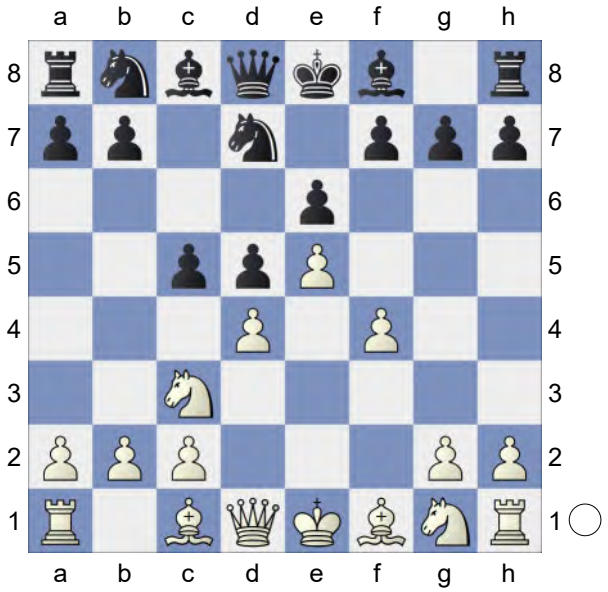


Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.34

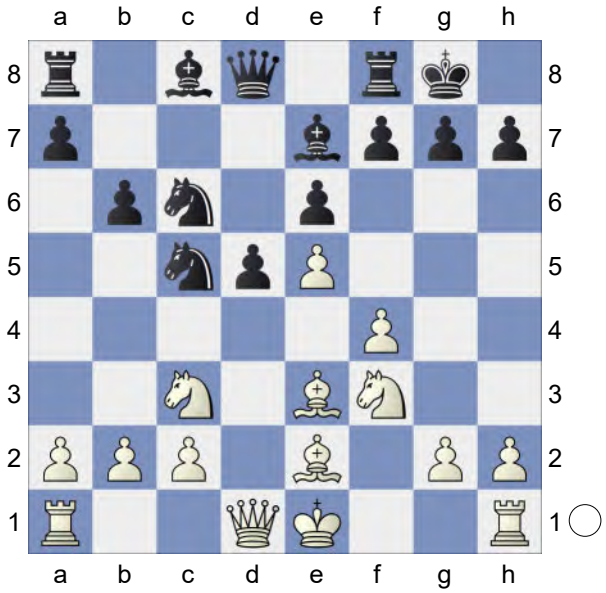
1-0

71 **C11**
□ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
■ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
Tata Steel Challengers (11.1) 31.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C11: French: Classical System: 4 e5 and 4 Bg5 dxe4 **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5**

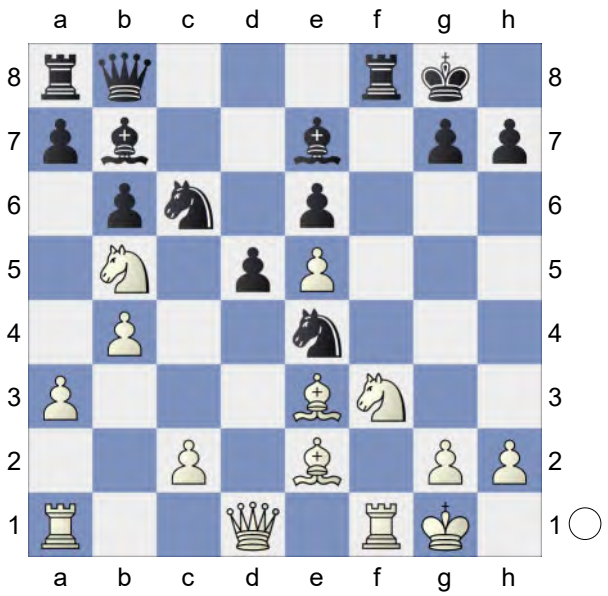


6.dxc5 Nc6 7.Bd2N
[7.Nf3 Bxc5 8.Bd3 a6 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.Bd2 b5 11.a3 Rb8 12.Nd1 Nb6 13.b4 Be7 14.0-0 Nc4 Cudina,I olm2 qual GP2 B2 corr ICCF corr 1948]
[7.a3
A) 7...Bxc5 8.Qg4 0-0 9.Bd3 f5 *(9...Qe7 10.Nf3 f6 11.Qh4 h6 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Bd2 e5 14.fxe5 Nxe5 15.0-0-0 Nxd3+ 16.cxd3 Be3 17.Rhe1 Bxd2+ 18.Rxd2 Qd6 19.Rde2 Bd7 20.Qd4 a6 21.Re5 Rac8 22.Kb1 Qc6 23.Rxd5 Nxd5 24.Nxd5* 1-0 Varga,C-Bridgwater,W 46/443 Belgrad 1988 (1)) 10.Qh3 Ne7 11.g4 Bxg1 12.Rxg1 Nc5 13.Bd2 Nxd3+ 14.Qxd3 Bd7 15.0-0-0 Rc8 16.gxf5 Nxf5 17.Rg5 Rf7 18.Rdg1 Be8 19.Kb1 Rfc7 20.Nxd5 Qxd5 21.Qxd5 exd5 22.Rxf5 1-0 Blackstock,L-Thompson,J Southend ENG 1972;
B) 7...Nxc5 8.b4 d4 9.Nce2 d3 10.Ng3 Qd4 11.c3 Qxc3+ 12.Bd2 Qb2 13.bxc5 Bxc5 14.Ne4 Bxg1 15.Nd6+ Ke7 16.Rxg1 Qd4 17.Rh1 f6 18.Nb5 Qe4+ 19.Kf2 Rd8 20.Qg4 Kf7 21.Qh5+ Kg8 0-1 Bauche,T (1978)-Philippe,C (2384) Metz op 31th 2013 (1)]
7...Nxc5 8.Nf3 Be7 The position is equal. **9.Be3 0-0 10.Be2 b6**

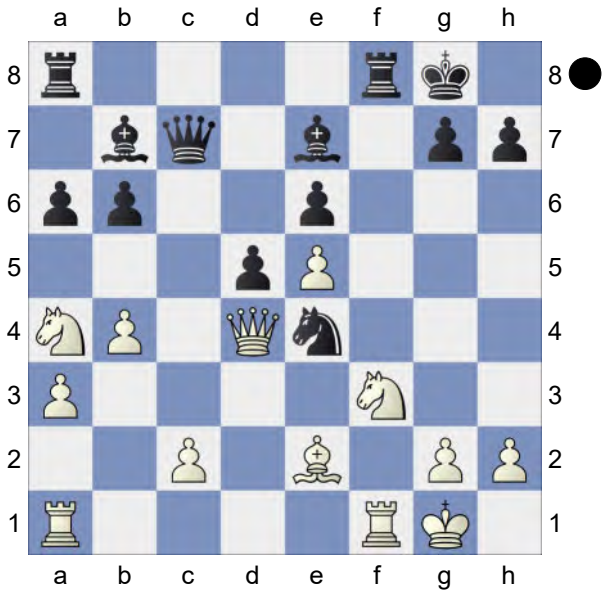


11.0-0 Bb7 12.a3 f6 13.Nb5 fxe5 14.fxe5 -0.53/22
[14.Nxe5= 0.11/22 Bf6 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.Nd4]
14...Qb8!∓ 15.b4 Ne4

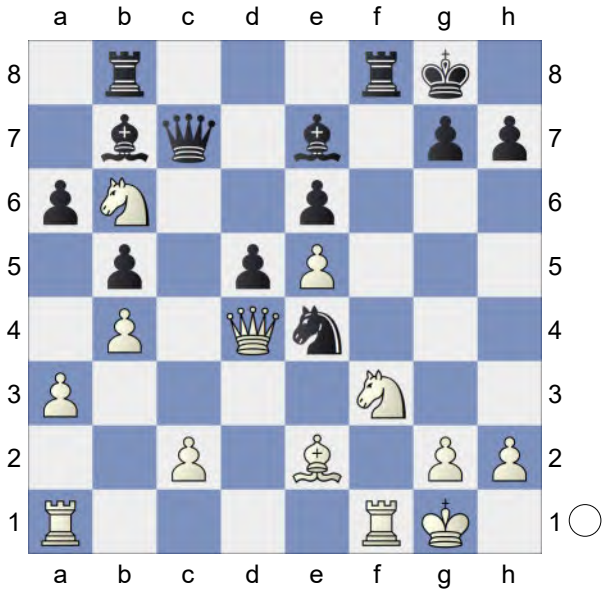
(Diagram)



16.Bd4 -1.87/21
[16.Bd3!∓ -0.62/21]
16...a6-+ 17.Nc3 -2.07/22
[17.Nd6∓ -1.55/23 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Nxd6 19.Rxf8+ Bxf8 20.exd6 Qxd6 21.Bg4]
17...Qc7 ...Nxd4 is the strong threat.
[17...Nxd4 18.Qxd4 Qc7 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Nd2∓]
18.Na4 Nxd4 19.Qxd4

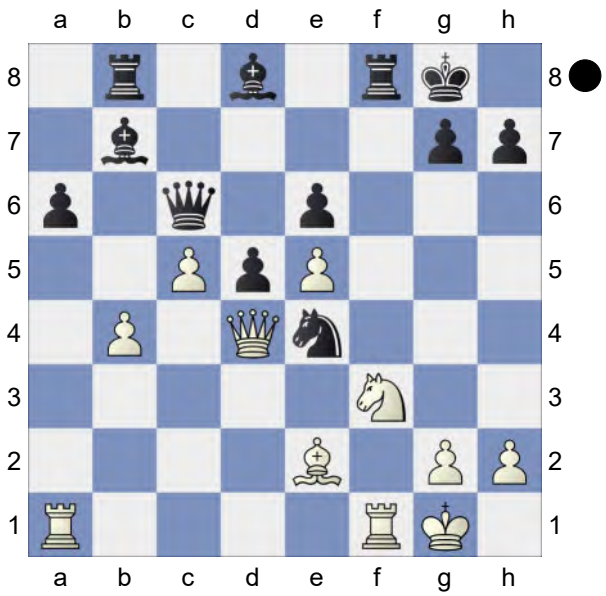


b5 Black is more active.
[19...Qxc2 20.Bd1 Qc7 21.Bb3=]
20.Nb6 -3.55/22 This costs White the game.
[20.Nb2∓ -1.49/22]
20...Rab8

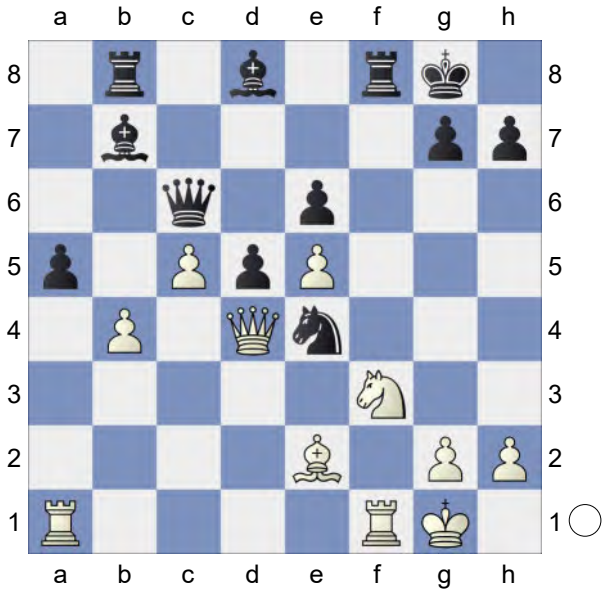


21.a4 bxa4 -2.02/22
[21...Qxc2 22.Bd3 Qc6 23.axb5 axb5 24.Nd7 Qxd7 25.Bxe4∓]
[⌓21...Rf4 -3.94/22 22.Qe3 Rbf8 23.axb5 axb5 *(23...Qxc2? loses. 24.bxa6 Qc3 25.Qxc3+-; 23...Bxb4? 24.Na4-+)* 24.Bxb5 d4 *(24...Qxc2 25.Rac1=; 24...Bxb4 25.Nd7∓)*]
22.Rxa4? -5.08/23
[22.Nxa4 -2.02/22 was the crucial defense. Bc6 *(22...Qxc2 23.Bd3∓)* 23.Nc5 Nxc5 24.bxc5]
22...Bd8 23.c4 Qxb6 24.c5 Qc6 25.Raa1

(Diagram)

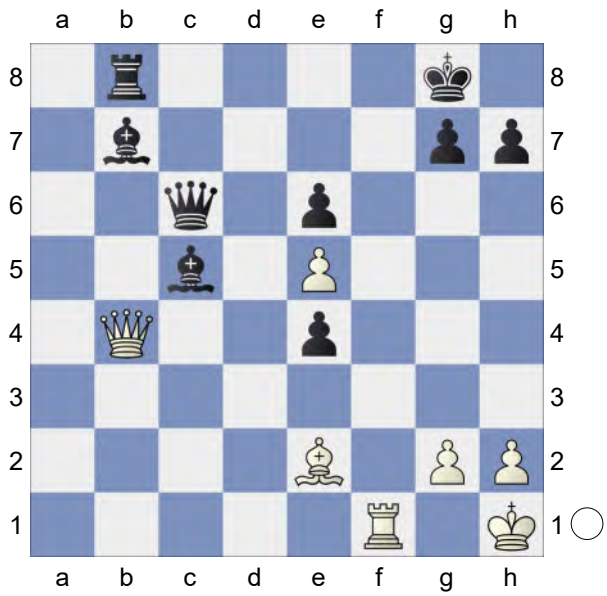


a5!

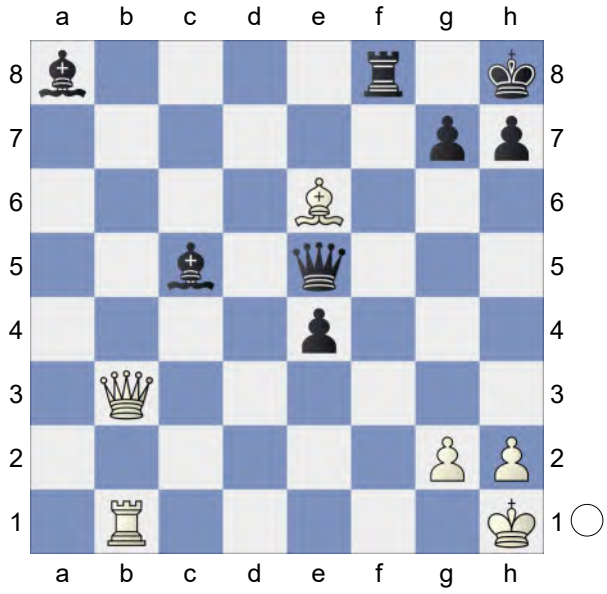


26.Nd2
[26.bxa5 Be7]
26...Rxf1+ 27.Rxf1 Be7 And now ... axb4 would win. **28.Nxe4 dxe4 29.Kh1 axb4 30.Qxb4 Bxc5**

(Diagram)

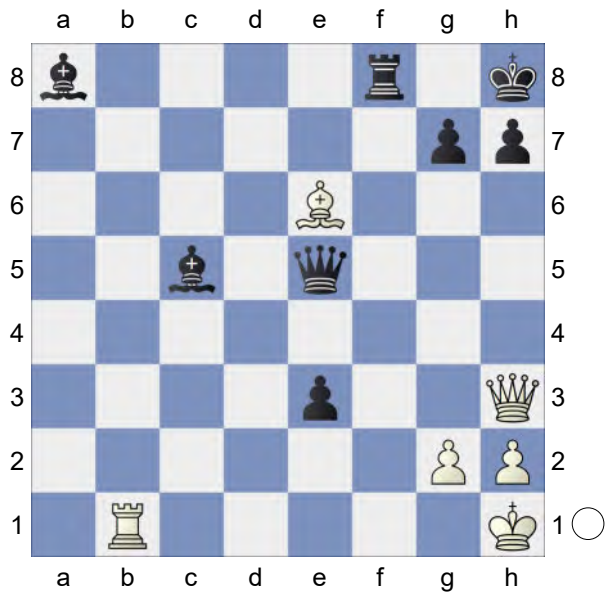


31.Qb3 Rf8 32.Rb1 Ba8 Strongly threatening ...e3. **33.Bb5 Qd5 34.Bc4 Qxe5 35.Bxe6+ Kh8**



(→ ...e3) **36.Qh3 e3**

(Diagram)

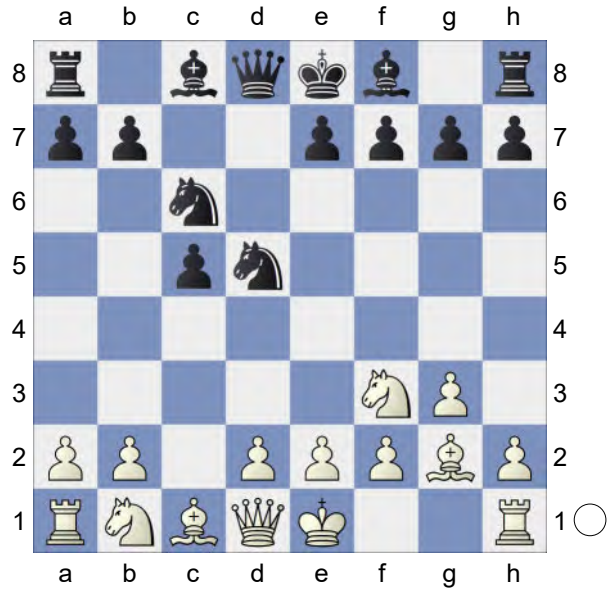


Weighted Error Value: White=0.87/ Black=0.29 (precise)

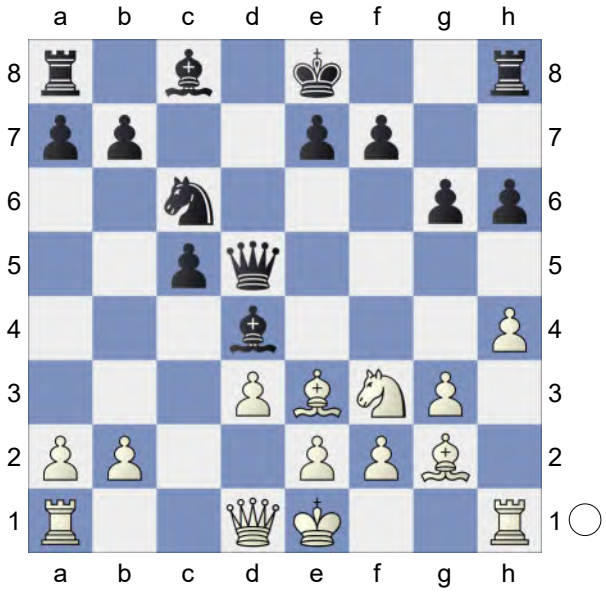
0-1

72 **A15**
□ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
■ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
Tata Steel Challengers (11.2) 31.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

A34: Symmetrical English: 2 Nc3, lines with ...d5 **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nc6**

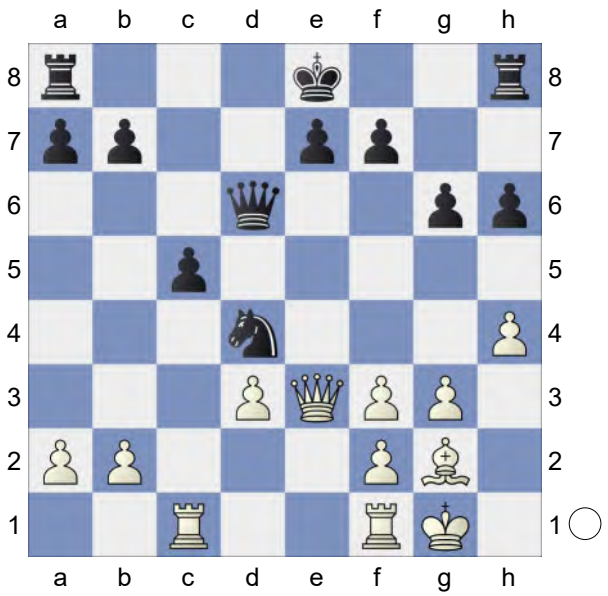


6.Nc3 g6N
[6...Nxc3 7.bxc3 e5 8.0-0 Be7 9.d3 0-0 10.Rb1 Qc7 *(10...Rb8 11.Ne1 Be6 12.Qa4 Qd7 13.f4 b5 14.Qe4 Na5 15.f5 Bxa2 16.Rb2 Bb3 17.Qxe5 Bf6 18.Qxc5 Rbc8 19.Qa3 Bxc3 20.Rxb3 Nxb3 21.Qxb3 Bd4+ 22.e3 Rxc1 23.exd4 Qxd4+ 24.Kh1 Qe3 25.Qb4* 0-1 Bluemich,M-Richter,K DSB-26 Meisterschaft von Deutschland-24 Duisburg 1929 (13)*)* 11.Nd2 *(11.Be3 Be6 12.Qa4 b6 13.Nd2 Rac8 14.f4 exf4 15.Bxf4 Qd7 16.Nc4 Rfd8 17.Bxc6 Qxc6 18.Qxa7 Bxc4 19.dxc4 Qe4 20.Qxb6 Bf6* N,N-N,N 4.g3*)* 11...Be6 12.Qa4 Rac8 13.Nc4 b6 14.Qb5 Bd7 15.Qa6 Nb8 16.Qb7 Qxb7 17.Bxb7 Rc7 18.Bd5 Bc6 19.Ne3 Bg5 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 ½-½ Flores,D (2533)-Paravyan,D (2612) Aimchess Rapid Div 2 W Chess.com INT 2023 (1.4)]
7.h4 h6 0.48/20
[7...Bg7= -0.01/18]
8.Nxd5± Qxd5 9.d3 White has an edge. **9...Bg7 10.Be3!** Dodges b6 **10...Bd4** 0.68/20
[10...c4= 0.26/20]

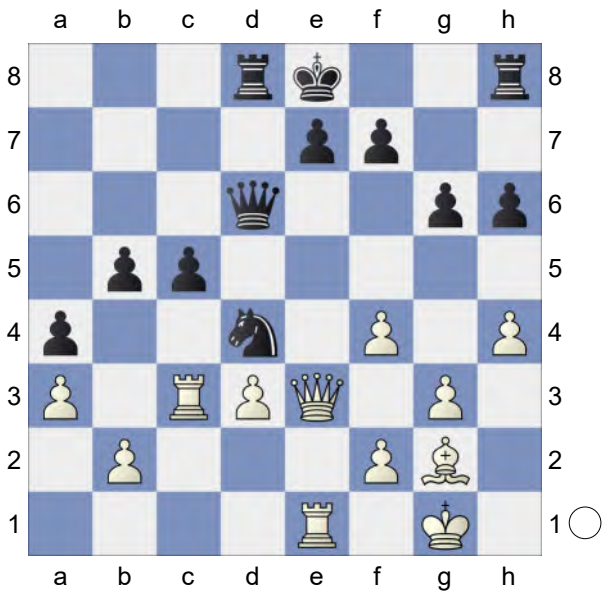


11.Qd2 Bxe3 12.Qxe3 Nd4! 13.Rc1 Dodges Nc2+. And now 0-0 would win.
[13.Kd2 looks sharper. Be6 14.b4 Rd8 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Qe4]
13...Bg4 14.0-0 Bxf3 15.exf3 -0.26/23
[15.Bxf3 0.11/24 is more appropriate. Nxf3+ 16.exf3]
15...Qd6=

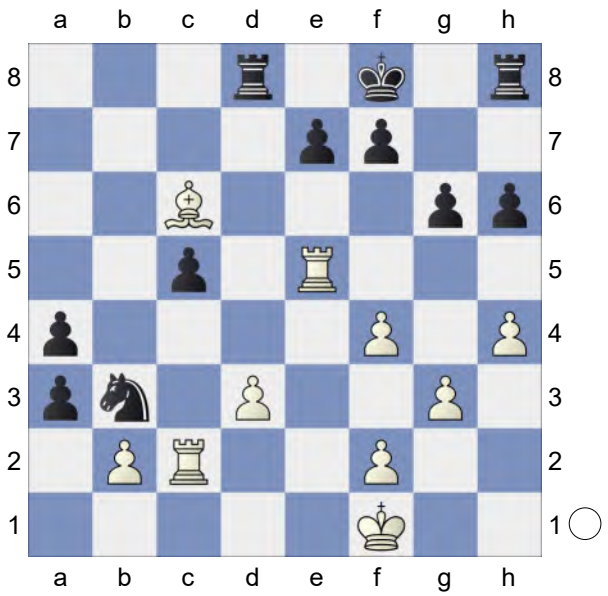
(Diagram)



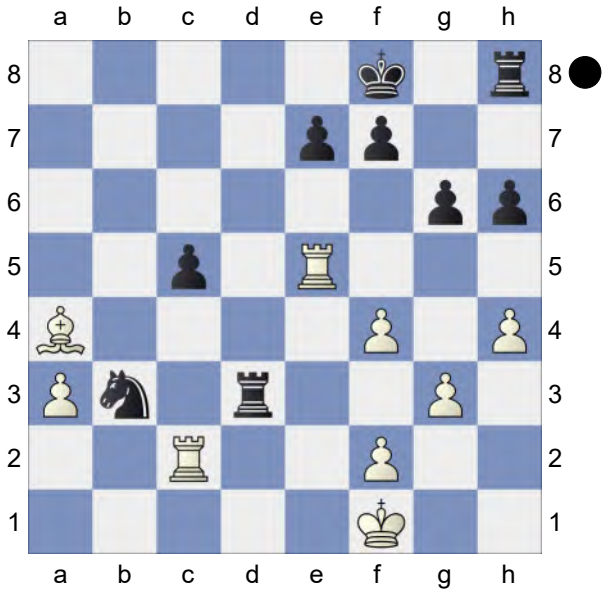
16.f4 Rb8 17.Rc4 a5 18.a3 -0.71/22
[18.Re1= -0.23/22]
18...b5∓ 19.Rc3 a4
[19...Kd7 is more complex. 20.Rfc1 Rhc8 21.Bf3 h5]
20.Re1 Rd8 0.01/22
[Better is 20...e6∓ -0.58/21]



21.Kf1= Kf8 0.55/22
[21...b4= -0.01/20 22.Rc4 e6]
22.Qe5± Qxe5 23.Rxe5 Nb3 24.Bc6 b4 The position is equal. **25.Rc2 bxa3!**
(Diagram)

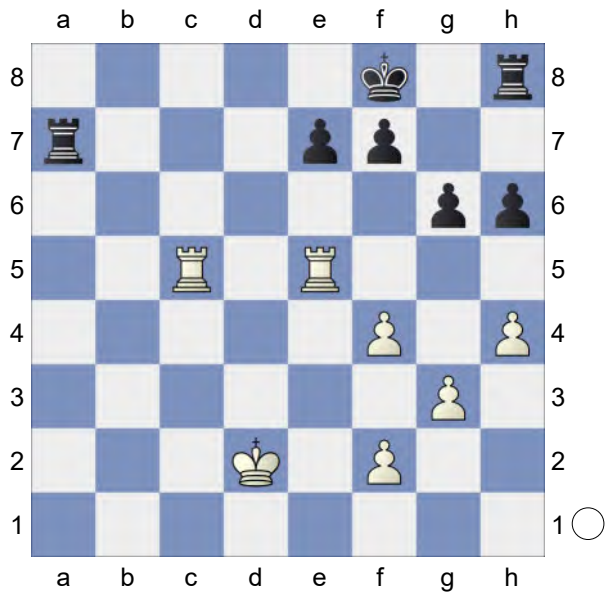


26.bxa3 Rxd3 27.Bxa4



Black must now prevent Ke2. **27...Nd2+! 28.Ke2! Rxa3 29.Kxd2 Rxa4 30.Rcxc5 Ra7**

(Diagram)

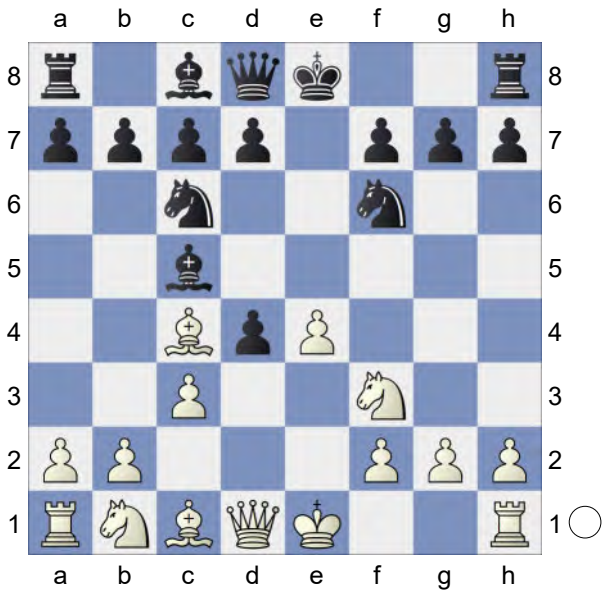


Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

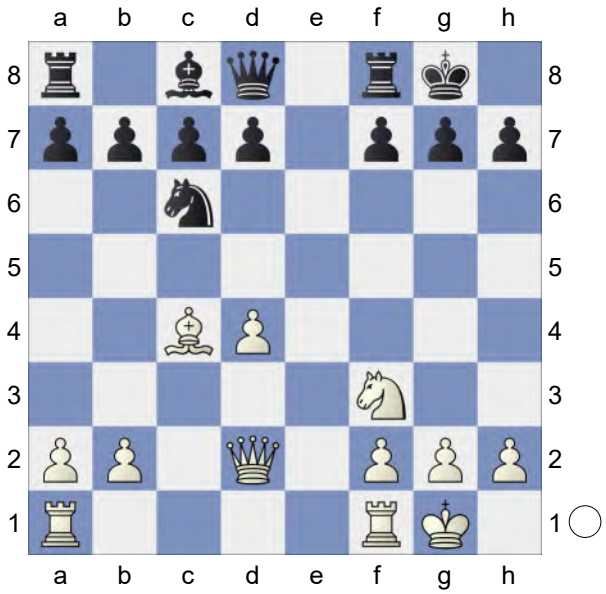
½-½

73 **C54**
□ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
■ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
Tata Steel Challengers (11.3) 31.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

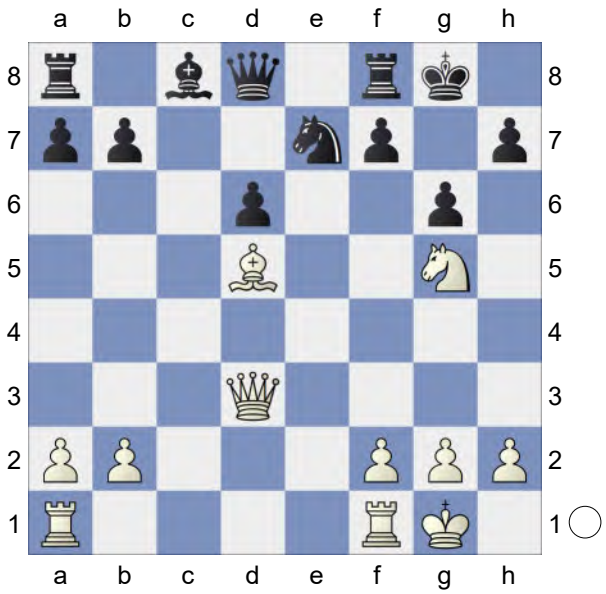
C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3 **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4**
[5.0-0 d6 6.d4 Bb6 7.h3 0-0 8.a4 h6 9.d5 Na5 10.Bd3 c6 11.c4 c5 12.Nc3 a6 13.Nh2 Bc7 14.f4 b6 15.f5 Bd7 16.g4 Nh7 17.Nf3 b5 18.b3 bxc4 19.Bxc4 Nxc4 0-1 Willy,S (2159)-Estrada Nieto,J (2241) Charlotte CCCSA Fall IM-D 2022 (6)]
5...exd4



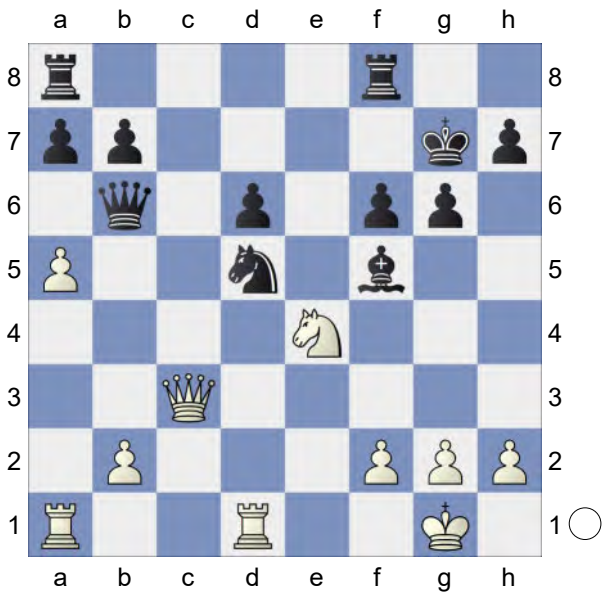
6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nbd2N
[7.Nc3 d6 8.d5 Ne5 9.Qa4+ c6 10.Qxb4 b5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Be2 Bb7 13.Be3 a5 14.Qb3 0-0 15.Rd1 Qc8 16.d6 Rd8 17.0-0 Qb8 18.f4 Rxd6 19.Rxd6 Qxd6 20.Rd1 Qc7 21.fxe5 Qxe5 1-0 Hijl,V-Vereschildt,S NED-ch U18 Nijmegen 1992]
7...Nxe4 8.0-0 Nxd2 9.Bxd2 Bxd2 10.Qxd2 0-0



11.d5 Ne7 12.d6 cxd6 13.Ng5 d5! 14.Qd3 The position is equal. **14...g6 15.Bxd5 d6**

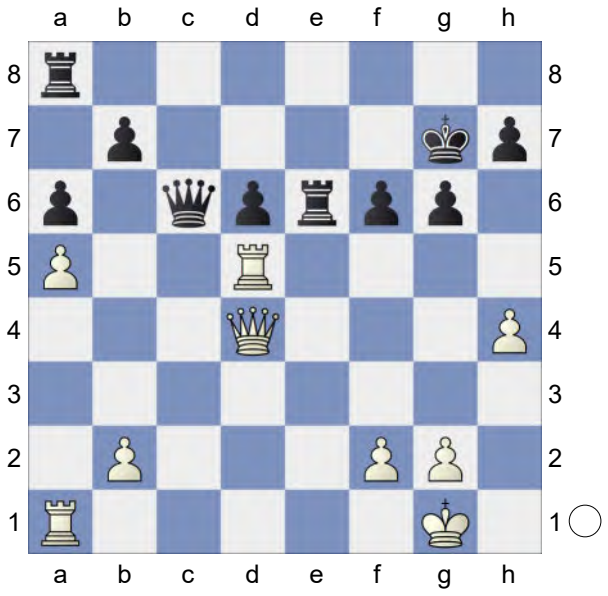


16.Ne4 Kg7 0.85/20 Inhibits Nf6.
[16...Nxd5= 0.00/21 17.Qxd5 Bf5]
17.Rfd1 0.42/22
[17.Qc3+± 0.85/20 f6 18.Rad1]
17...Qb6 18.Qc3+ f6 19.a4 0.11/22
[19.Rd4± 0.49/21]
19...Bf5!= Strongly threatening ...Nxd5.
20.a5⇄ White is fighting back **20...Nxd5**
(Diagram)



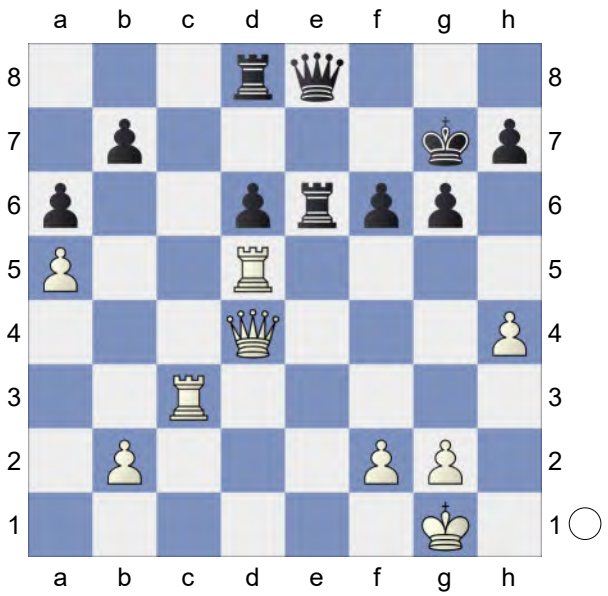
Remove Defender **21.Rxd5 Qc6 22.Qd4 Bxe4 23.Qxe4 Rfe8 24.Qd4 Re6 25.h4 a6** 0.07/23

[25...Rae8 -0.30/23 might be stronger.]



26.Ra3 Rd8 27.Rc3 Qe8

(Diagram)



28.h5! Qe7

[28...Rd7 29.Re3]

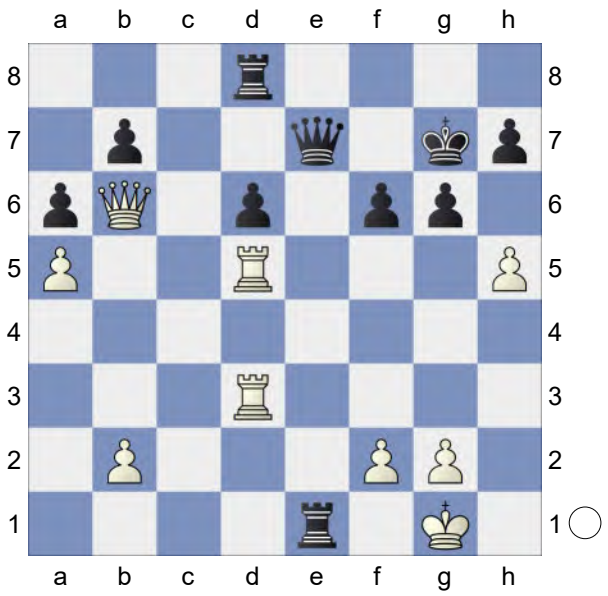
29.Rd3

[29.Rh3 keeps more tension. Re1+ 30.Kh2 Qe4 31.hxg6 hxg6 32.Qd2]

29...Re4 30.Qb6 -0.48/22

[30.Qc3= -0.01/23]

30...Re1+

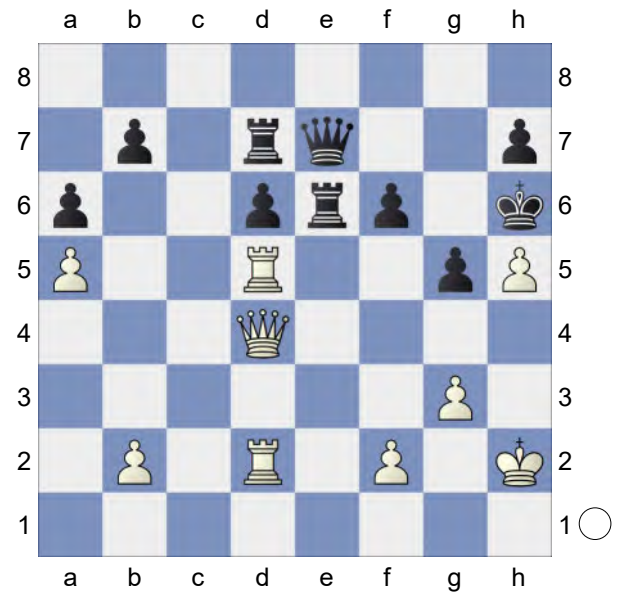


31.Kh2 Re5 32.g3 Re6 33.Rd1 Rd7 34.R1d2 g5 0.01/23

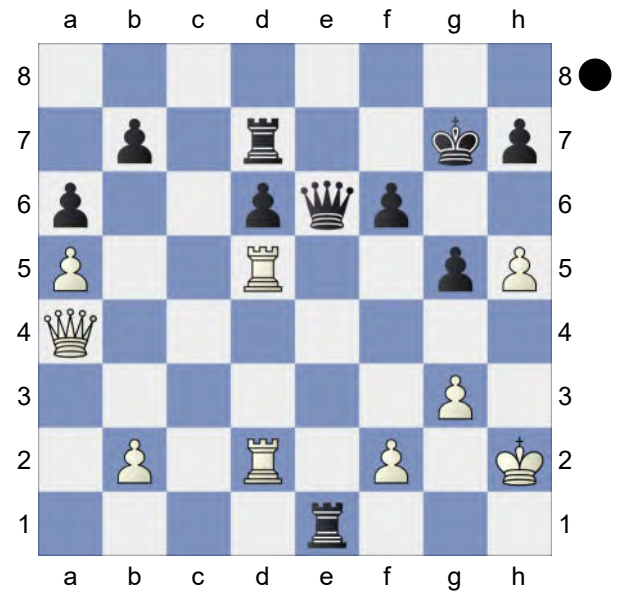
[34...Re5∓ -0.44/23]

35.Qd4 Kh6

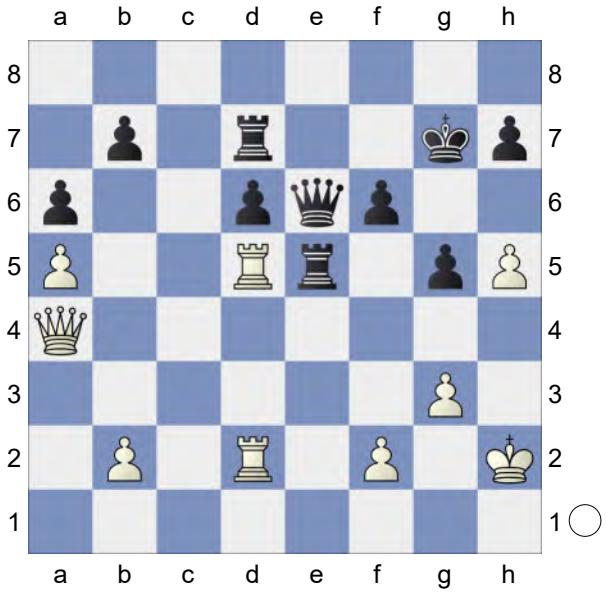
(Diagram)



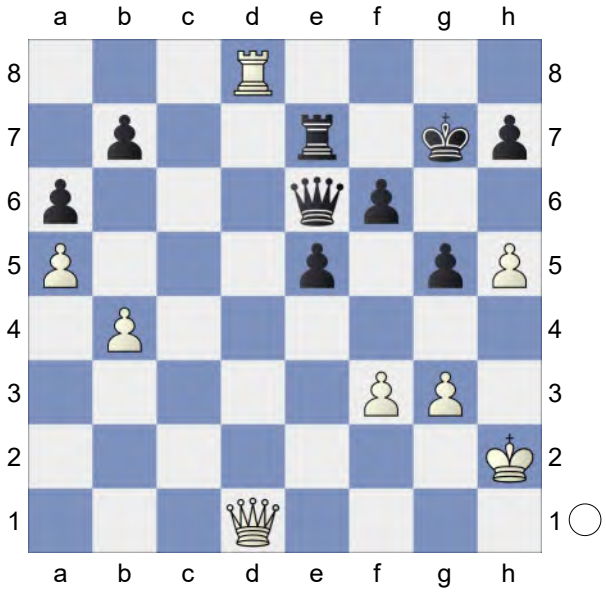
36.Qg4! Re4 37.Qd1
[37.Qf3 with more complications. Qe6 38.Qd1 Re1 39.Qf3]
37...Re1 38.Qf3 Kg7 39.Qg4 Qe6 40.Qa4 -1.31/25
[40.Qxe6!= -0.01/24 remains equal. Rxe6 41.Kh3]



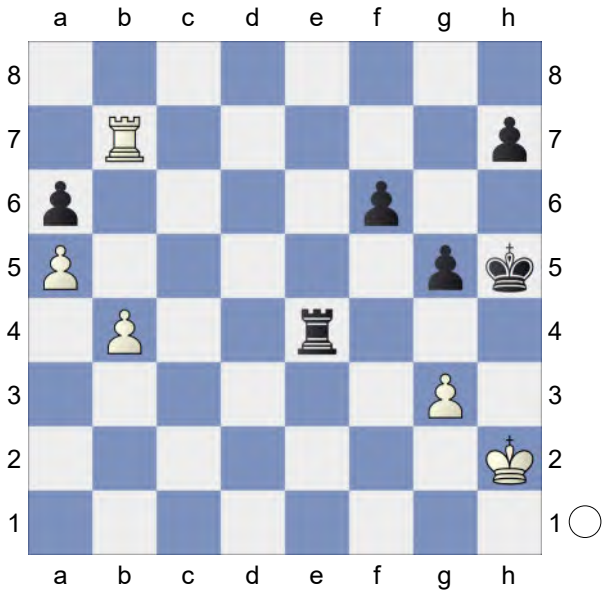
40...Re5 0.01/24
[40...Re7!∓ -1.31/25 (→ ...Rh1+!) 41.Kg2 *(41.Rxd6? Rh1+* Skewer *42.Kg2 Qh3+ 43.Kf3 Rhe1 44.h6+* Decoy *Kxh6 45.Rxf6+ Kh5-+)*
41...Rh1 Back Rank]



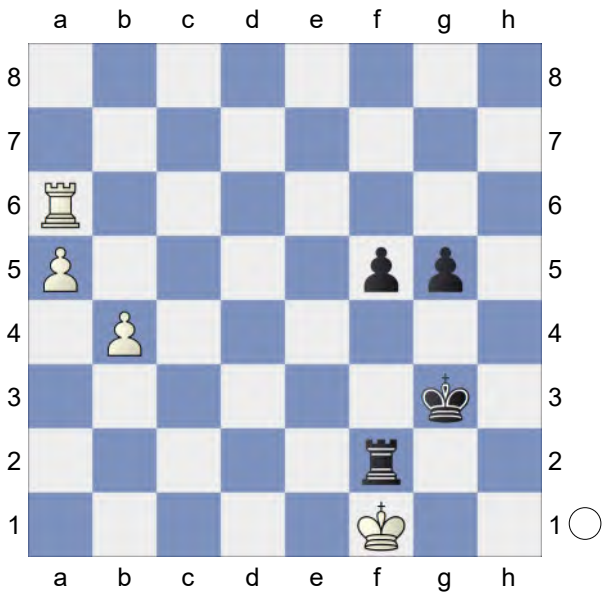
41.Qd1
[41.g4 seems wilder. Re1 42.Kg3 Kf8 43.Kf3]
41...Qf5 42.f3 -0.39/24
[42.g4= 0.01/24 Qf4+ 43.Kg2]
42...Rde7∓ 43.b4 Qc8 44.Rxe5 dxe5= Endgame. KQR-KQR **45.Rd8! Qe6**



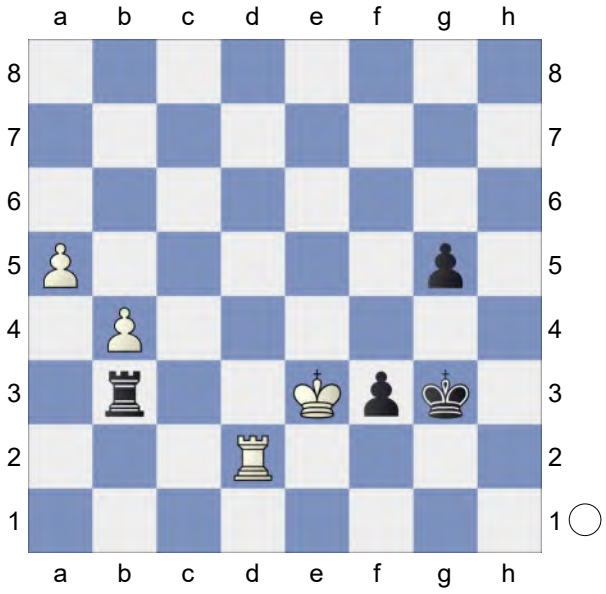
46.Qd3 e4 47.fxe4 Qxe4 48.Qxe4 Rxe4∓ KR-KR **49.Rd7+?** -2.37/24
[49.Kh3∓ -0.77/26 was forced.]
49...Kh6-+ 50.Rxb7 Kxh5



51.Rxh7+? -5.08/31
[51.Kh3∓ -1.59/28 was the crucial defense.]
51...Kg4 52.Rh6 f5 ...Re2+ would now be deadly.
[52...Rxb4 53.Rxf6 Rb2+ 54.Kg1=]
53.Rxa6 -12.84/22
[⌓53.Kg2 -5.17/26 Rxb4 54.Rb6]
53...Re2+ Deflection
[53...Rxb4 54.Rb6 Ra4 55.Rb2=]
54.Kg1 Loses the game. **54...Kxg3**
55.Kf1 Wards off Re1+ **55...Rf2+**

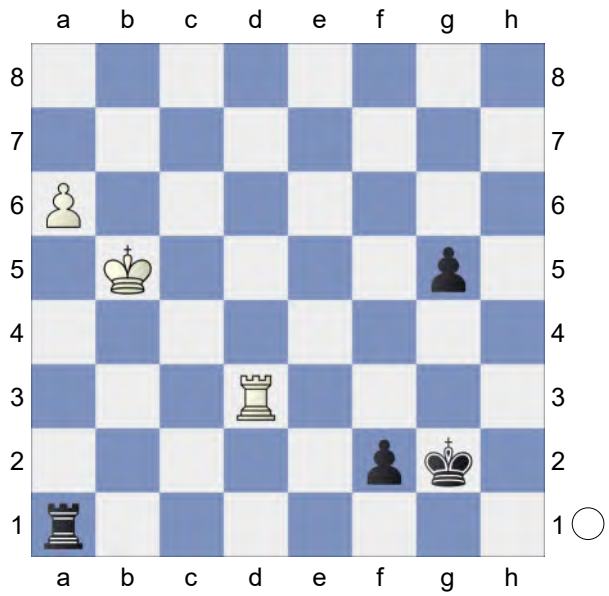


56.Ke1 Rb2 Hoping for ...f4! **57.Rd6 f4**
...f3! is the strong threat.
[And not 57...Rxb4 58.Rd3+ Kg2 59.Rd5=]
58.Rd2 Rb1+ 59.Ke2 f3+ 60.Ke3 Rb3+ -10.45/25
[⌓60...Re1+ -22.14/21 61.Kd4 f2 62.Rxf2 Kxf2 63.b5 Ra1 64.Kd5 Rxa5 65.Kc6 Rxb5 66.Kxb5 Ke3 67.Kc4 g4 68.Kd5 g3 69.Kd6 g2 70.Ke6 Ke4 *(70...g1R* leads to mate. *71.Kf5 Rd1 72.Ke5 Kf3 73.Kf5 Re1 74.Kg5 Re5+ 75.Kf6 Kf4 76.Kg6 Rf5 77.Kh6 Rg5 78.Kh7 Rg1 79.Kh6 Kf5 80.Kh7 Kf6 81.Kh8 Kf7 82.Kh7 Rh1#)* 71.Ke7 g1Q *(71...g1R* is a self mate. *72.Ke6 Rd1 73.Kf6 Rd6+ 74.Ke7 Ke5 75.Kf7 Re6 76.Kg7 Rf6 77.Kg8 Kf5 78.Kg7 Ke6 79.Kg8 Rg6+ 80.Kh8 Kf7 81.Kh7 Rf6 82.Kh8 Rh6#)* 72.Kf6 Qd4+ 73.Kf7 Ke5 74.Kg6 Qa7 75.Kh5 Qg1 76.Kh6 Kf6 77.Kh7 Qg7#]

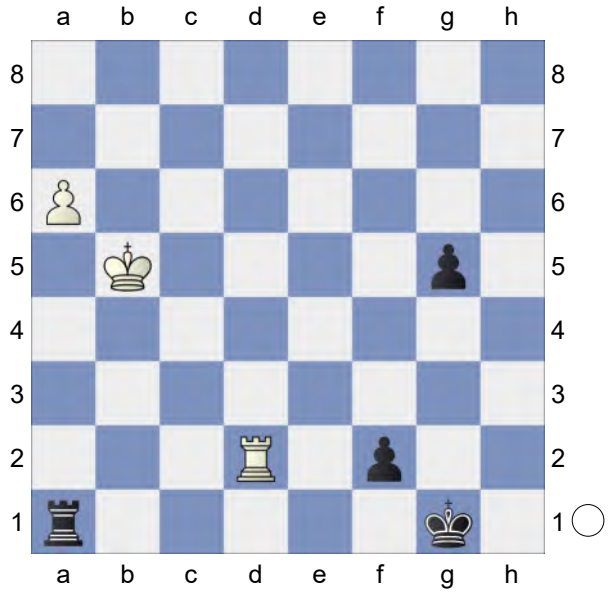


61.Kd4 Rxb4+ 62.Kc5 Ra4 63.Kb5 Ra1 64.a6 f2 Black mates. **65.Rd3+ Kg2**

(Diagram)



66.Rd2 Kg1

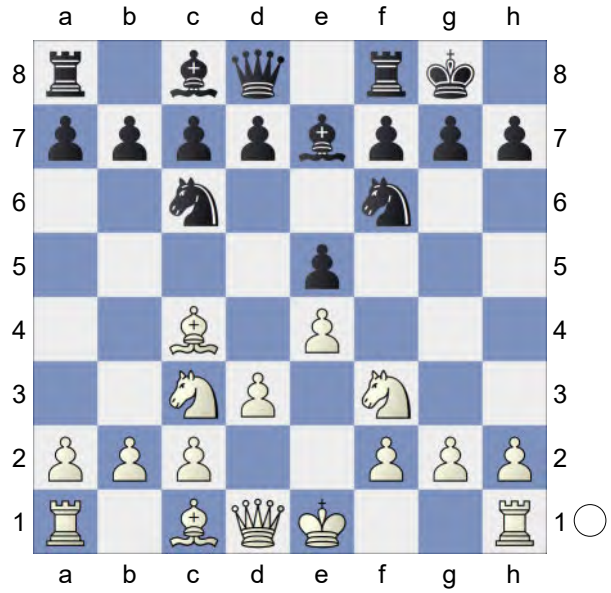


Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/ Black=0.20 (precise)

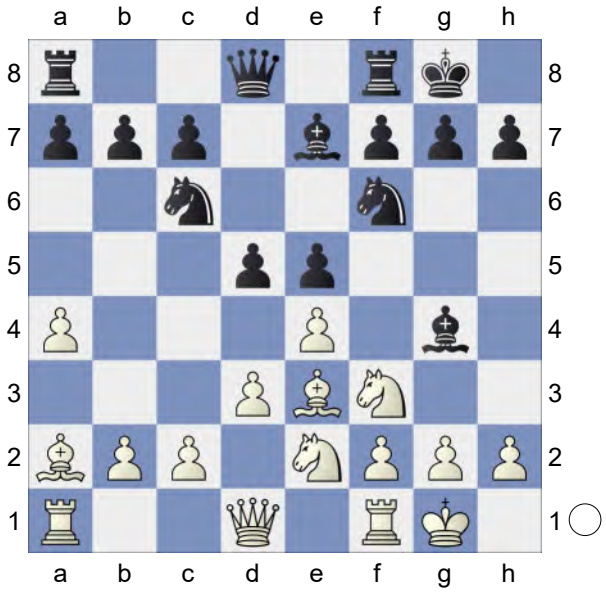
0-1

74 **C55**
□ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
■ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
Tata Steel Challengers (11.4) 31.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7**
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Nb6 *(6...Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.d4 Nb6 9.Bb5 0-0 10.dxe5 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 fxe5 13.Nc3 Bg4 14.Re1 Bh4 15.Be3 Bf5 16.Na4 Bxc2 17.Nxb6 cxb6 18.Bc4+ Kh8 19.Bd5 Bd3 20.Bxb7 Rab8 21.Bd5* 0-1 3.c3 ♗g7 4. ♗g5_30545 (2123)-Hauge,L (2379) Cappelle op 25th Cappelle la Grande 2009 (3)*)* 7.Bb5 Bd6 8.d4 e4 9.Re1 f5 10.Bg5 Qd7 11.c4 0-0 12.c5 exf3 13.cxb6 Qf7 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Qxf3 axb6 16.Nc3 f4 17.Qxc6 Bd7 18.Qd5 Qxd5 19.Nxd5 1-0 Rojas Keim,L (2680)-Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2738) Metz op 28th 2010 (5.5)]
5.Nc3 0-0

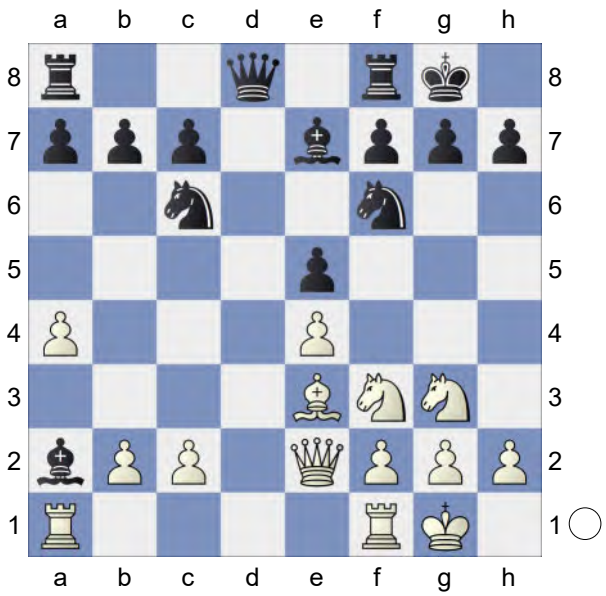


6.0-0 d6 7.a4N
[7.a3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nd4 10.Qd1 c6 11.f4 exf4 12.Rxf4 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Ba2 Bc5 15.Kh1 Re8 16.Rf1 Ne6 17.g4 d4 18.Na4 Be7 19.g5 Nd7 20.Rxf7 Bd6 21.Rf5 Qc7 ½-½ Edighoffer,H-Melton,R APCT King ch-1 corr 1996]
7...Na5 8.Ba2 Nc6 9.Ne2 White is slightly better. **9...Bg4 10.Be3** 0.06/18
[10.c3± 0.43/20 might be stronger.]
10...d5=

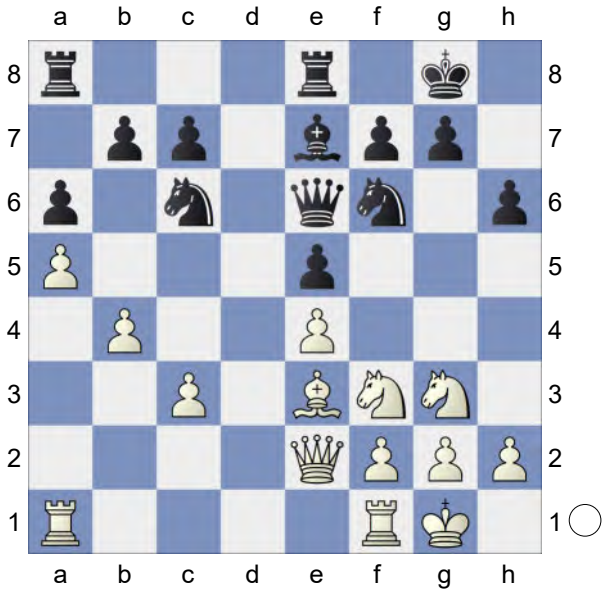


11.Ng3 Be6 12.Ng5 Bg4 13.Nf3 Be6 14.Qe2 dxe4 15.dxe4 Bxa2

(Diagram)



16.Rxa2 Qc8 17.Raa1 Re8 18.c3 h6 19.a5 a6 20.b4 Qe6



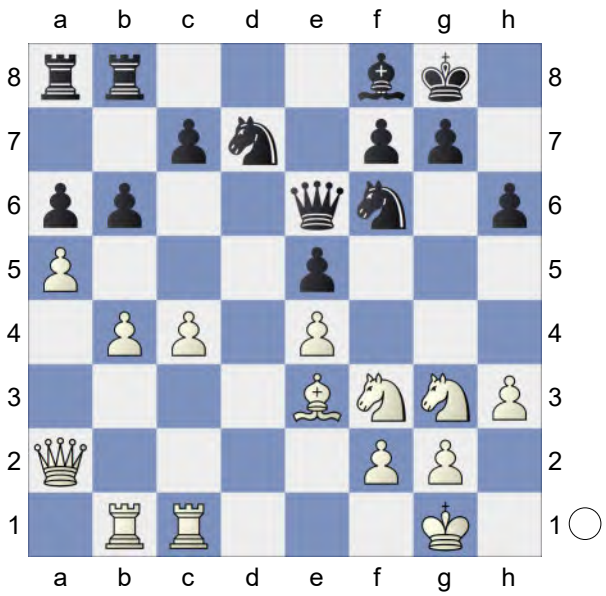
21.Rfc1 Bf8 22.h3 Nb8 23.Rab1 Nbd7 24.c4 -0.01/22

[24.Ne1± 0.35/19]

24...b6 25.Qa2 Reb8 0.43/21

[25...c5= -0.04/20]

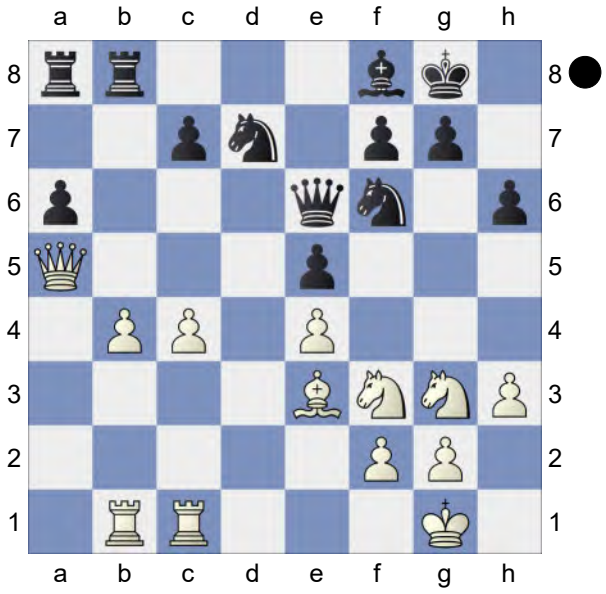
(Diagram)



26.Qa1 -0.29/22

[26.Ne1!± 0.43/21]

26...bxa5 27.Qxa5



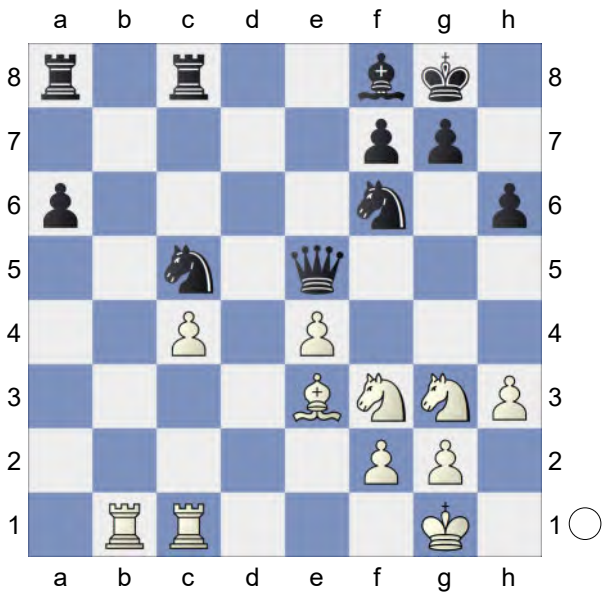
c5! 28.bxc5

[28.Bxc5 Bxc5 29.bxc5 Rxb1 30.Rxb1 Qxc4-+]

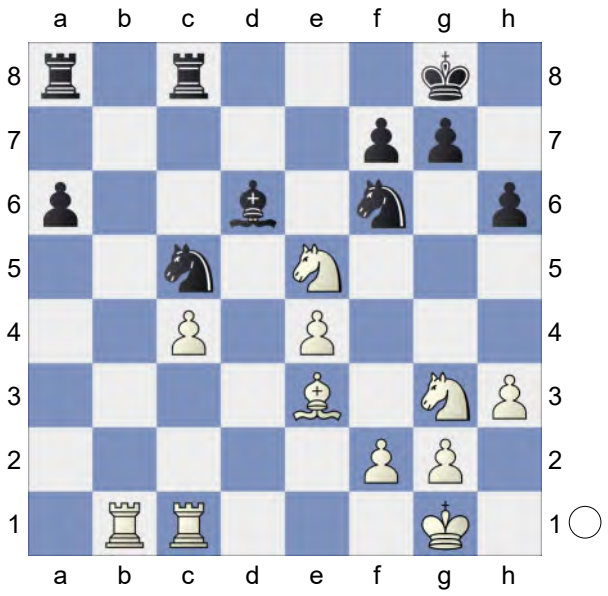
28...Rc8 29.Qc3 Nxc5 30.Qxe5 Qxe5 0.02/18

[30...Nfd7!∓ -0.37/21 31.Qd5 a5]

(Diagram)

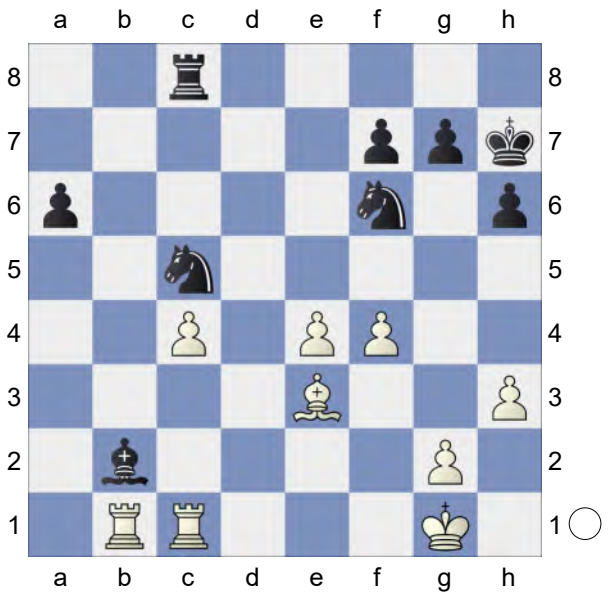


31.Nxe5 Bd6 0.51/23
[31...a5= -0.03/20]

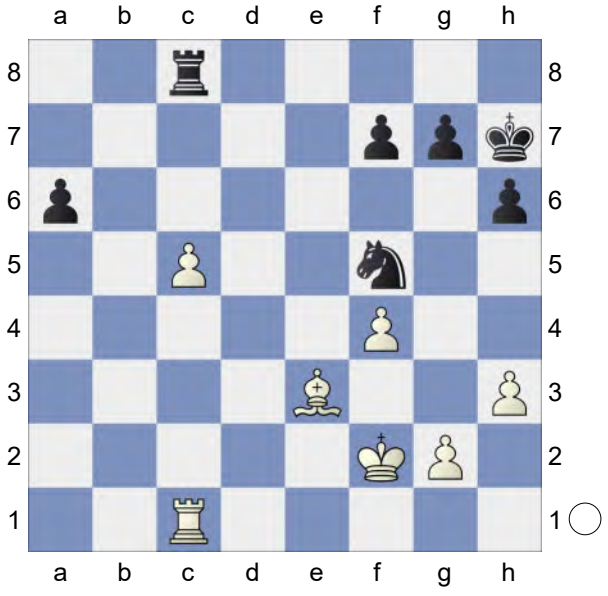


32.Nf5!± Bxe5
[32...Bf8 33.f3]
33.Ne7+! Kh7 34.Nxc8 Rxc8 35.f4↑
White fights for an advantage. **35...Bb2**

(Diagram)



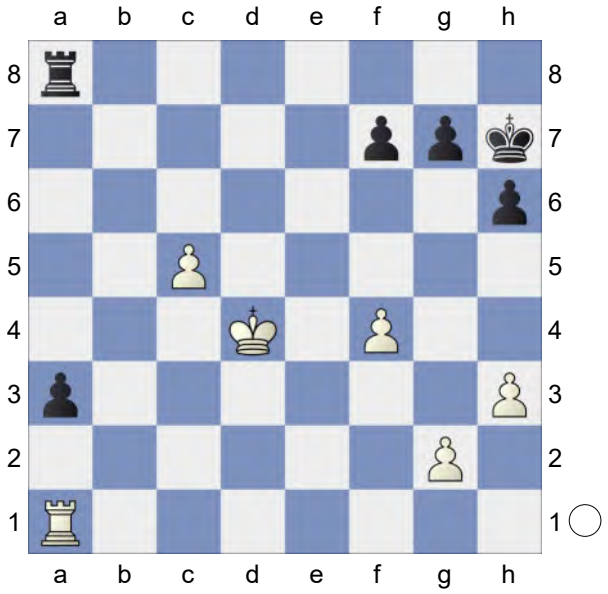
Decoy **36.Rxb2** And now Bxc5 would win. **36...Nd3** Excellent horsemanship. **37.Rbc2 Nxc1 38.Rxc1** e5 is the strong threat. **38...Nxe4** Endgame. KRB-KRN **39.c5 Ng3** 1.04/22
[Black should play 39...a5!± 0.34/21]
40.Kf2± Nf5



41.Kf3 a5 42.Ke4 Nxe3 3.06/21
This move loses the game for Black.
[42...Kg6± 0.76/20 43.Bg1 Re8+ 44.Kd5 Re2]
43.Kxe3 KR-KR **43...a4 44.Kd4**
Hoping for c6. **44...a3** 3.32/23

[⌓44...Kg6 2.26/20 45.Ke5 a3]

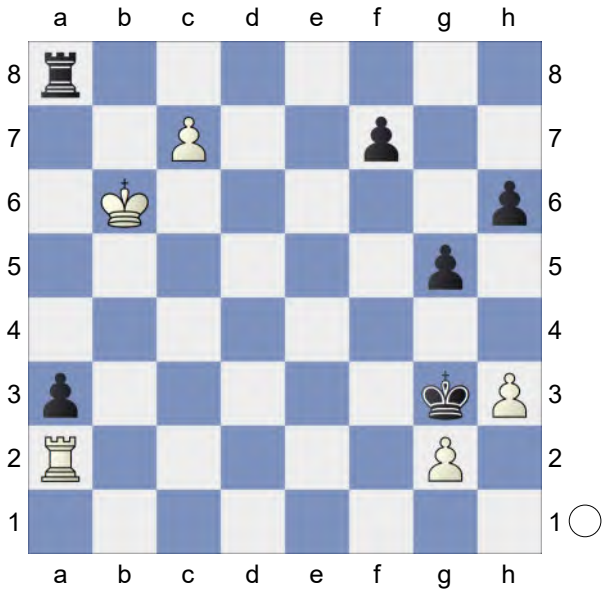
45.Ra1+- Ra8



46.Ra2 Kg6 5.81/24

[46...g5 4.10/21 was worth a try. 47.c6 gxf4]

47.c6 Kf5 48.Kc5 Kxf4 49.c7 Kg3 50.Kb6 g5



51.Kb7 Re8 52.c8Q Rxc8 53.Kxc8

[53.Rxa3+ Kxg2 54.Kxc8 f5=]

53...f5 54.Kd7 Threatening mate with Ke6!

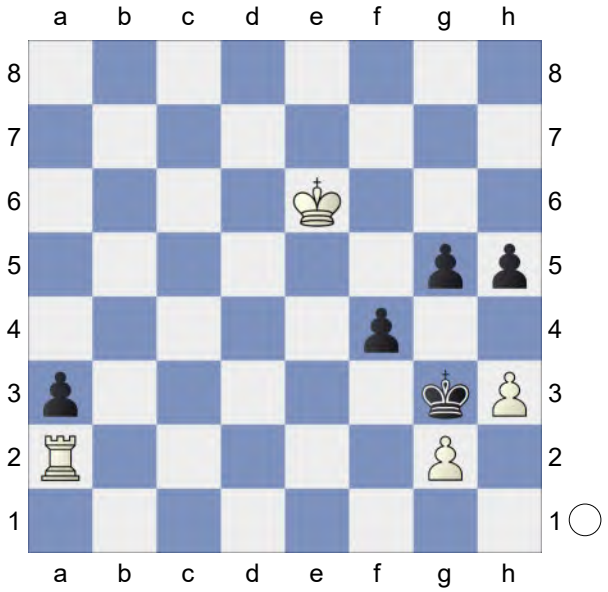
[Weaker is 54.Rxa3+ Kxg2 55.Kd8 f4=]

54...f4 55.Ke6 20.55/27

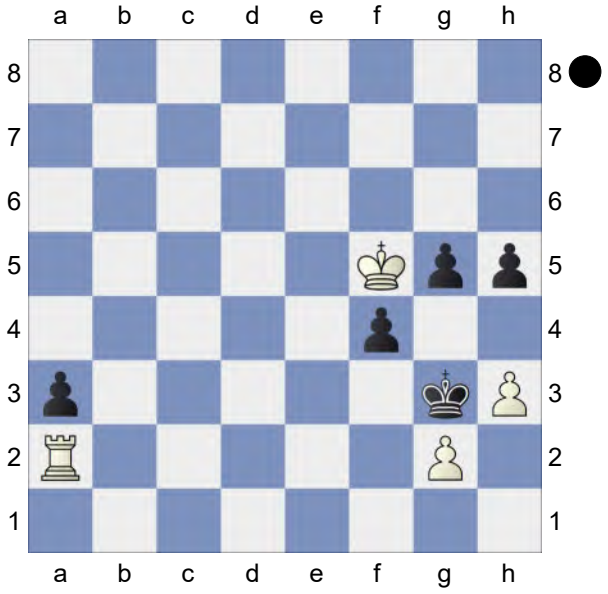
[Not 55.Rxa3+ Kxg2 56.Ke6 f3=]

[⌓55.Kd6 #19/26 f3 56.gxf3 *(56.Rxa3 Kxg2 57.Ke5 f2=)* 56...Kxf3 57.Ke5 *(57.Rxa3+ Kf4 58.Ke6 h5 59.Ra4+ Kg3 60.Kf5 Kxh3 61.Kxg5 Kg3 62.Ra3+ Kf2)* 57...h5 58.Rxa3+ Ke2 59.Kf5 g4 60.hxg4]

55...h5



56.Kf5

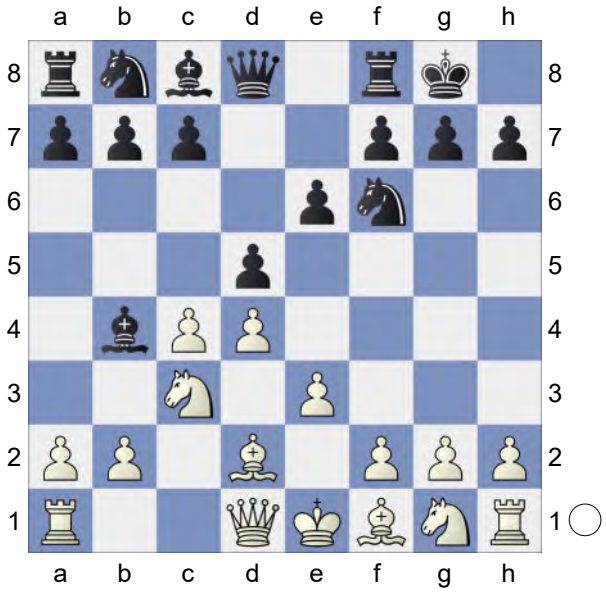


Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very

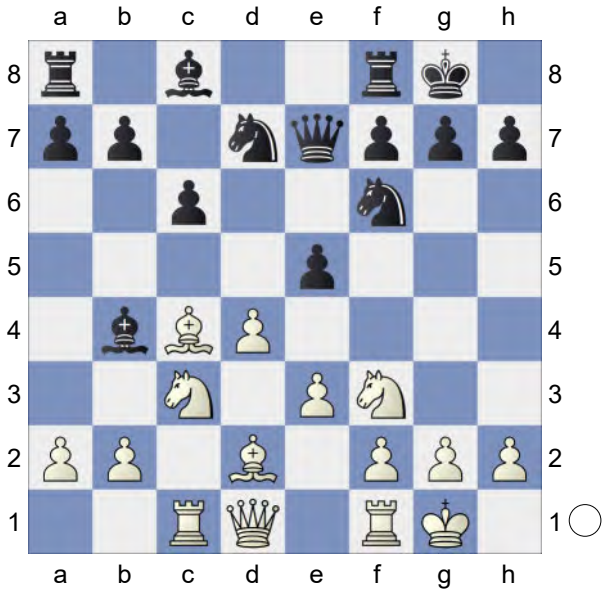
precise) /Black=0.51
1-0

75 **E46**
□ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
■ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
Tata Steel Challengers (11.5) 31.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

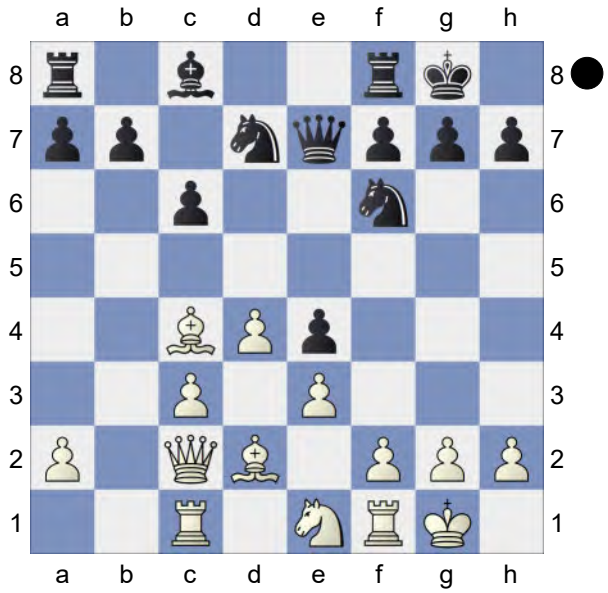
E51: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: 4...0-0 5 Nf3 d5 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd2 d5**



6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Rc1 c6 8.Be2 Qe7 9.0-0 White is slightly better. **9...dxc4 10.Bxc4 e5**



11.Qc2 Bxc3 12.bxc3 -0.79/22
[12.Bxc3= 0.24/20 remains equal. e4 13.Ne5]
12...e4!∓ 13.Ne1 -1.15/22
[13.Ng5∓ -0.70/21]

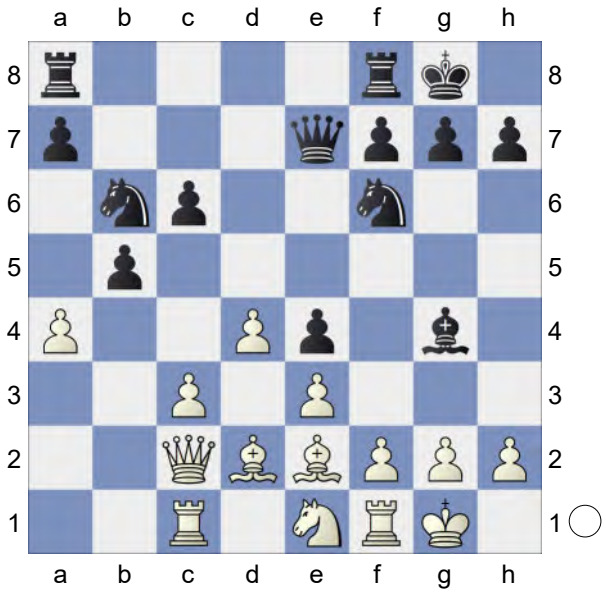


13...b5! 14.Be2 Nb6 15.a4N
White is weak on the light squares
[15.Qb2 Be6 16.c4 Nxc4 17.Bxc4 Bxc4 18.Bb4 Qe6 19.Bxf8 Rxf8 20.Nc2 Bxf1 21.Rxf1 a5 22.Na1 a4 23.Nc2 Nd5 24.Rc1 Qd6 25.a3 Nb6 26.Qc3 Nc4 27.Re1 h5 28.f3 Re8 29.f4 h4 0-1 Sorensen,H (2442)-Urkedal,F (2536) Rilton Cup 50th Stockholm 2022 (7) 30.Kf2 Qe6 31.Rg1 Qg4 32.Qa1 Re6 33.Qd1 Qf5 34.g4 hxg3+ 35.Rxg3 Rh6 36.Kg1 Rg6 37.Kg2 Nb2 38.Qb1 Nc4 39.Qd1 Qe6 40.h3 Rxg3+ 41.Kxg3 Nd6 42.Nb4 Nf5+ 43.Kf2 Qf6 44.Qg4 g6 0-1 Piceu,T (2442)-7.♗g2 ♘c6 8.h3 ♕c7 (2536) Mutxamel 5th 2023 (7) 45.Qg5 Qd6 46.Ke2 Kg7 47.Qg1 c5 48.dxc5 Qxc5 49.Kd2 Kg8 50.Nc2 Nd6 51.Qa1 Nc4+ 52.Ke2 Qh5+ 53.Ke1 Qxh3 54.Qd4 Qh1+ 55.Ke2 Qg2+ 56.Kd1

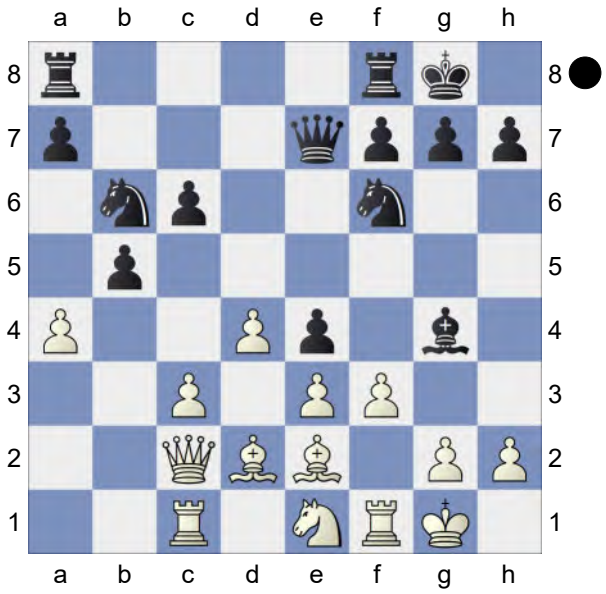
Qf1+ 57.Ne1 Qf2 58.Nc2 Kh7 0-1 Piceu,T (2442)-7. ♗g2 ♘c6 8.h3 ♕c7_7173 (2536) Mutxamel 5th 2023 (7)]

15...Bg4↑

[15...bxa4?! 16.c4=]



Black has strong initiative. **16.f3**



Bf5 17.Qd1 -1.27/19

[Better is 17.axb5 -0.77/20 exf3 18.Bd3 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 cxb5 20.gxf3]

17...Nxa4 Black is much more active.

The white rooks are passive.

[17...bxa4 18.fxe4 Bxe4 19.c4∓]

18.c4 a6 19.Qb3 -1.53/20

[⌓19.d5 -1.08/18]

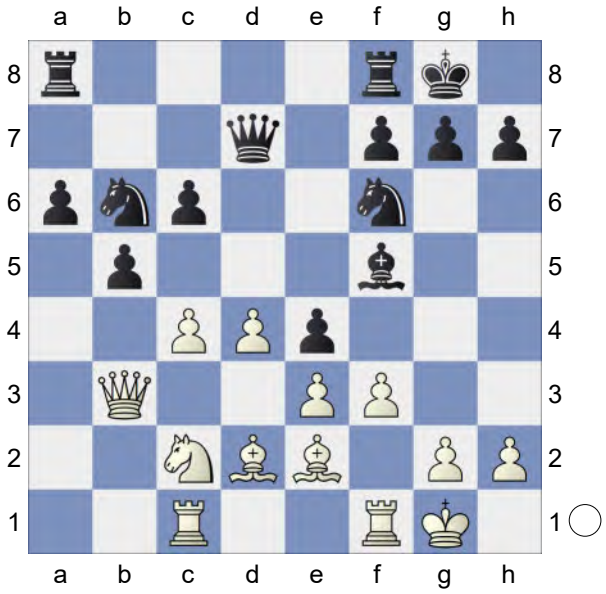
19...Qd7 -0.73/19

[⌓19...Rfb8 -1.53/20 And now ...Nb6 would win. 20.Bb4 bxc4 *(20...c5 21.fxe4 cxb4 22.Rxf5∓)* 21.Qxa4 *(21.Rxc4 c5=)* 21...Qxb4 *(21...Rxb4? 22.Qxc6 Rc8 23.Qxa6∓)* 22.Qxb4 Rxb4 23.Rxc4 Rxc4 24.Bxc4 Nd5]

20.Nc2 -1.75/20

[20.fxe4∓ -0.73/19 Bxe4 *(20...Nxe4 21.Nf3∓)* 21.Nd3]

20...Nb6-+



21.cxb5 -2.42/20

[21.Na3 -1.70/19 was worth a try.]

21...cxb5 aiming for ...Be6.

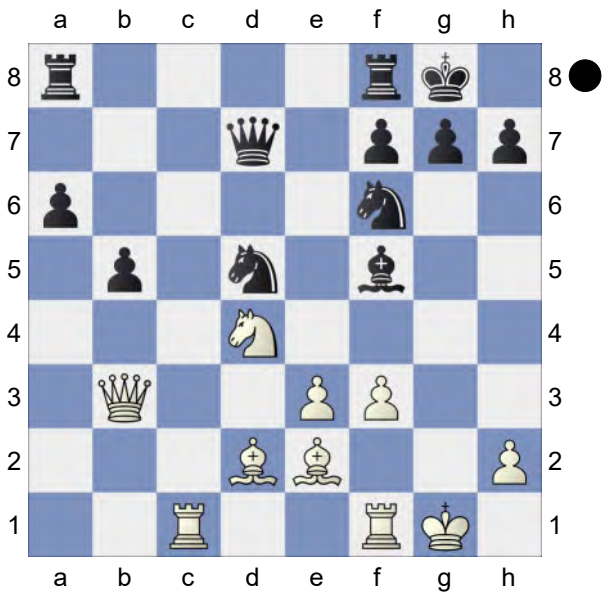
[21...axb5 22.Nb4∓]

22.d5 Nbxd5

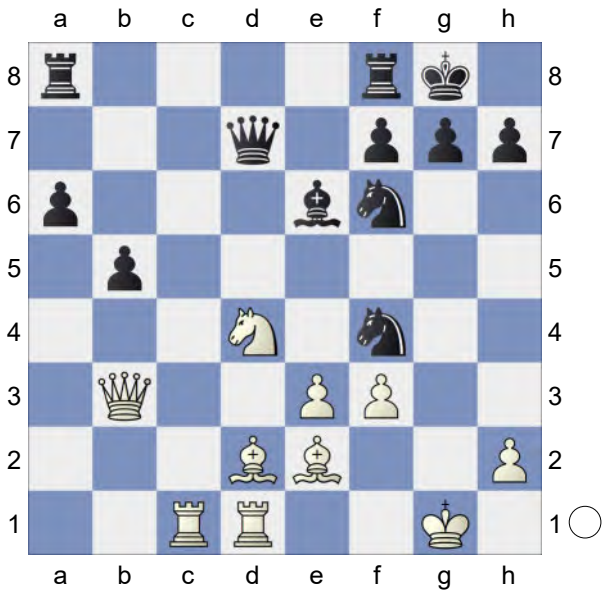
[But not 22...Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Nfxd5 *(23...Nbxd5? 24.Nd4∓)* 24.Nd4 exf3 25.Bxf3∓]

23.Nd4 exf3 24.gxf3

(Diagram)

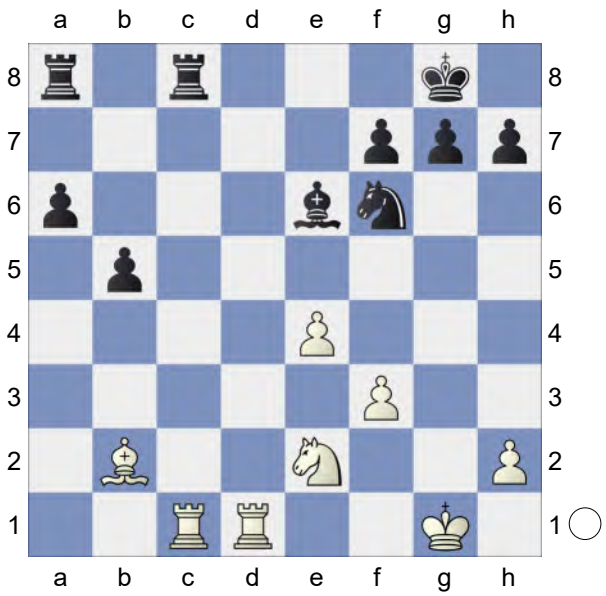


Nf4! ...Nxe2+ is the strong threat.
Deflection **25.Rfd1**
[25.Rfe1 Nxe2+]
25...Be6

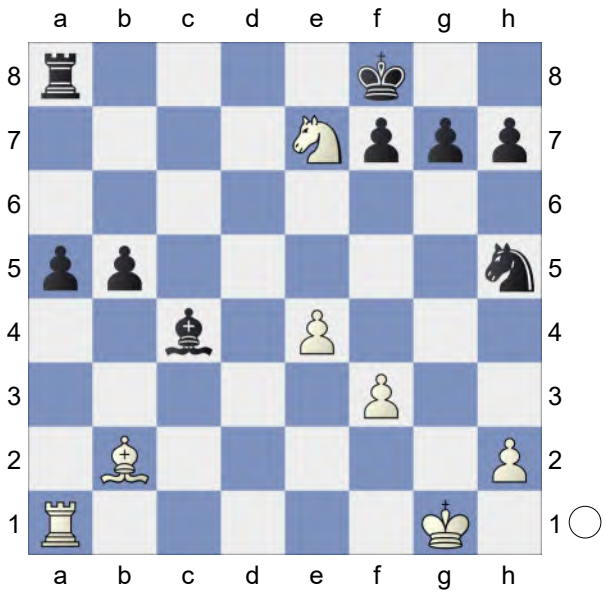


26.Qb2 Nxe2+ 27.Nxe2 Qd5 28.e4 Qb3 29.Bc3 Qxb2 30.Bxb2 Rfc8

(Diagram)

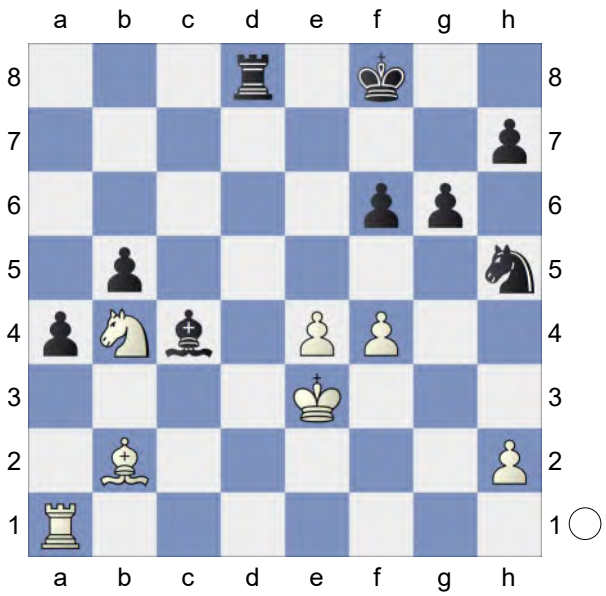


31.Nd4 -2.02/22
[31.Rxc8+∓ -1.50/24 Rxc8 32.Nd4]
31...Rxc1 32.Rxc1 Bc4 33.Nf5 Nh5 34.Ra1 a5 35.Ne7+ Kf8

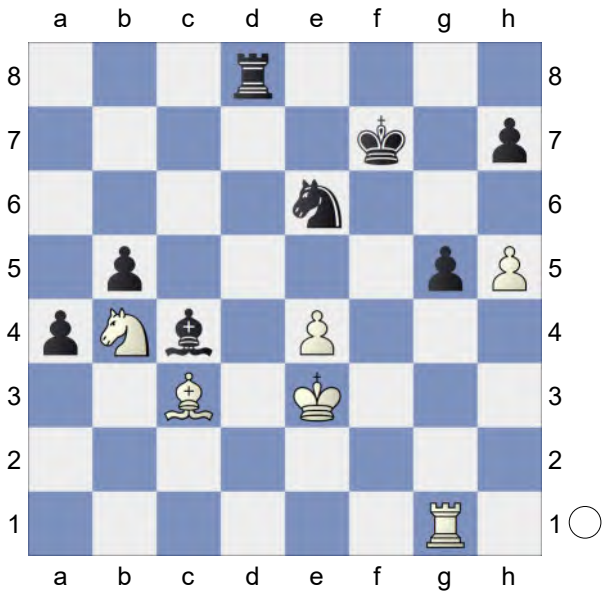


36.Nc6 a4 37.Kf2 Rc8 38.Nb4 Rd8 39.Ke3 Repels Rd2 **39...f6 40.f4 g6**

(Diagram)

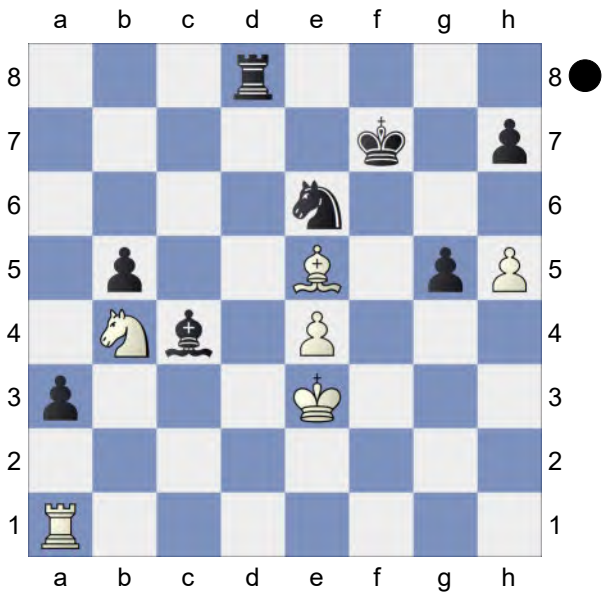


41.Rg1 Kf7 42.h4 Ng7 43.Bc3 Ne6 44.h5 g5 45.fxg5 fxg5

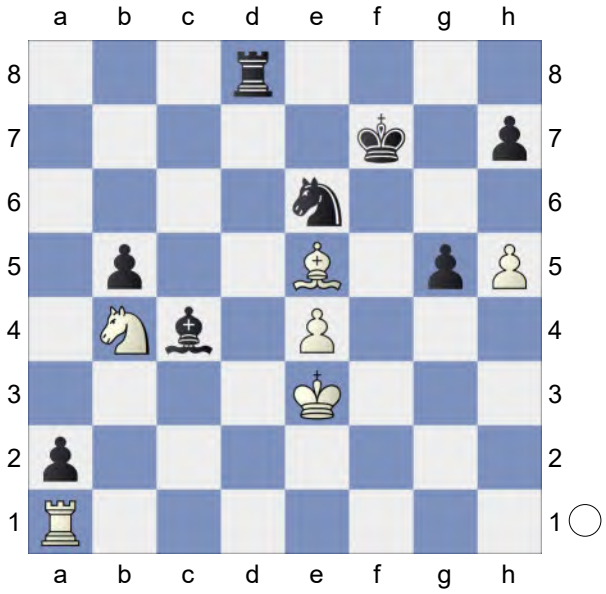


46.Be5 a3 47.Ra1

(Diagram)



a2!



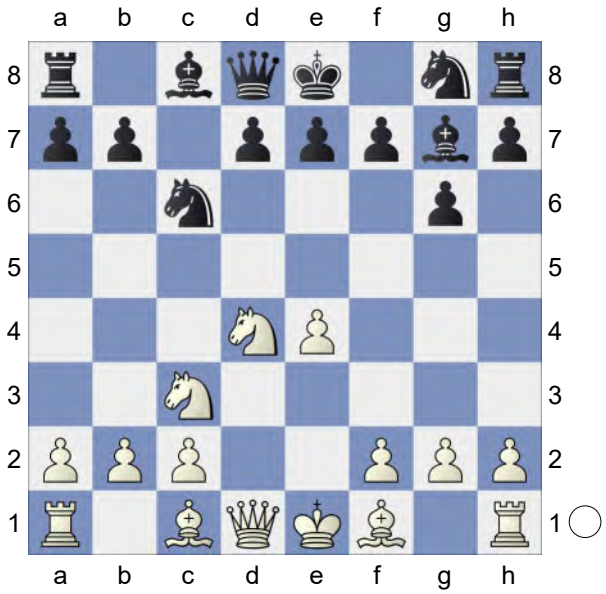
Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.10 (very precise)

0-1

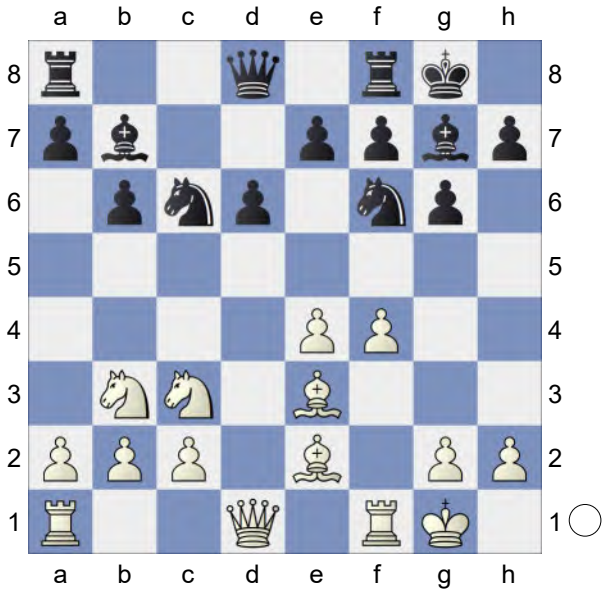
76 **B74**
□ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
■ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
Tata Steel Challengers (11.6) 31.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B74: Sicilian Dragon: Classical System with 9 Nb3 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3**
[3.c3 d6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd3 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.d5 Nb8 9.Re1 Na6 10.Bf4 Nc7 11.Bf1 b5 12.a4 bxa4 13.Rxa4 a5 14.Bh2 Bd7 15.Ra3 a4 16.Nbd2 Rb8 17.Nc4 Bb5 1-0 5 - Mainline 6... h5 - Sideli (2540)-Scarella,E (2425) YUG-ch Novi Sad 1985 (13)]
3...g6 4.d4N
[4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 d6 6.d3 e6 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Re1 0-0 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bd2 Rb8 11.a4 a6 12.Qc1 Kh7 13.Ne2 b5 14.axb5 axb5 15.Bc3 e5 16.h3 Be6 17.g4 b4 18.Bd2 f5 1-0 Winkelmann,A (2183)-Jordan,J (2145) Lueneburg distr Cup final Seevetal 2006 (1) 19.gxf5 gxf5 20.exf5 Nxf5 21.Ng3 Bd7 22.Nh2 Nxg3 23.fxg3 Qb6 24.g4 Ne7 25.g5 hxg5 26.Bxg5 Ng6 27.Qd1 Nf4 28.Bxf4 Rxf4 29.Qh5+ Kg8 30.Bd5+ Kf8 31.Rf1 Be8 32.Rxf4+ exf4 33.Qf5+ Ke7 1-0 Spraggett,K (2183)-Kordonowski,F (2145) 9/191 Hastings 1970 (1)]
4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7

(Diagram)

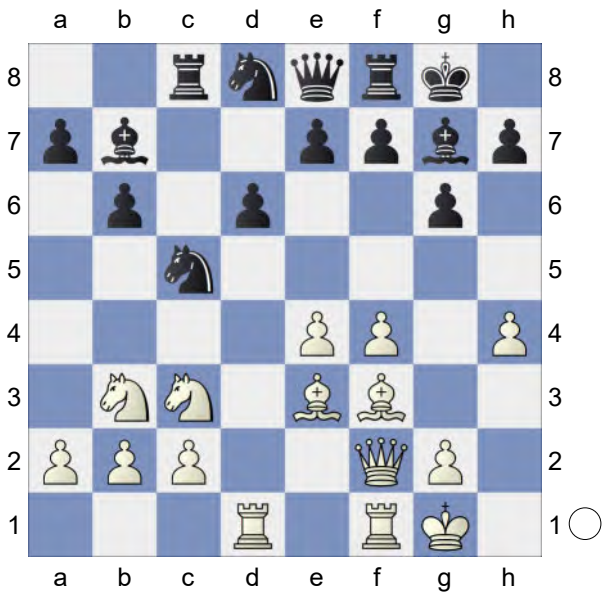


6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nb3 b6 10.f4 Bb7

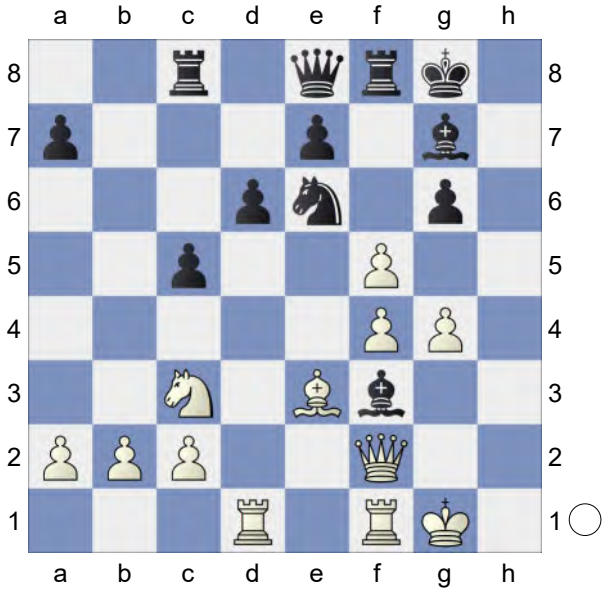


11.Bf3 Nd7 12.Qd2 Nc5 13.Rad1 Rc8
14.Qf2 -0.08/18
[⌓14.h4 0.28/17]
14...Qe8 0.72/18
[14...Ba6= -0.08/18 remains equal.]
15.h4 0.29/18
[15.Nxc5!± 0.72/18 bxc5 16.e5]
15...Nd8 0.71/19
[15...Ba6= 0.29/18]

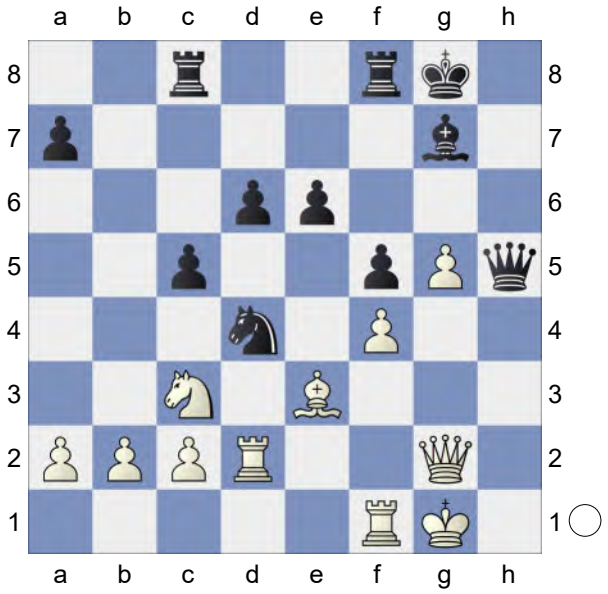
(Diagram)



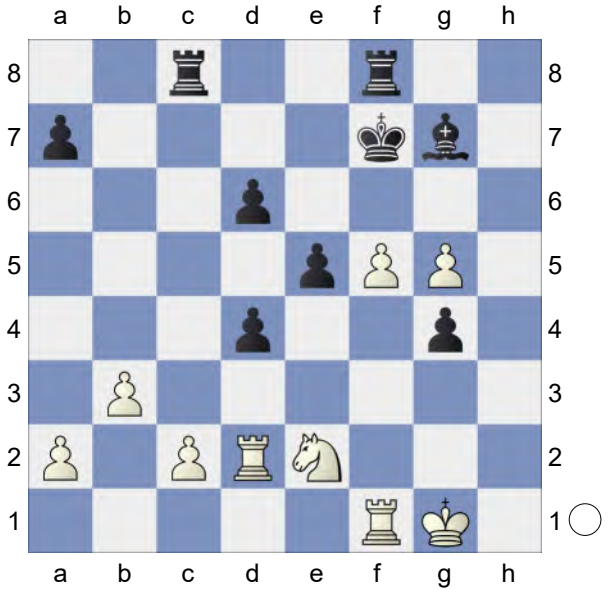
16.Nxc5 0.34/21
[16.h5± 0.71/19]
16...bxc5± 17.h5 f5 0.91/19
[17...Rb8± 0.37/19]
18.hxg6 0.44/21
[18.Qh4!± 0.91/19]
18...hxg6 19.g4 -0.01/19
[19.Qh4± 0.54/19]
19...Ne6 Hoping for ...Ng5! **20.exf5 Bxf3**



21.Qxf3 gxf5 22.Qd5 -0.37/20
[22.Nd5= 0.13/20]
22...Qf7!∓ 23.g5 Nd4 0.10/21
[23...Rb8∓ -0.39/18 deserves consideration.]
24.Qg2= e6 Dodges Nd5 **25.Rd2 Qh5**



26.b3
[26.Na4 simplifies Qg4 27.c3 Qxg2+ 28.Kxg2 Nb5 29.c4]
26...Qg4 27.Ne2 e5 1.07/21
[27...Nxe2+= -0.14/22 28.Rxe2 Qxg2+ 29.Kxg2 d5]
28.Qxg4!± fxg4 29.Bxd4 cxd4 30.f5
Black must now prevent f6. **30...Kf7**



31.Ng3 0.45/19
[31.f6 Bh8±]

[Better is 31.Kg2± 1.41/20]

31...Rh8!±

[31...Rc3 32.Ne4 Rf3 33.Rxf3 *(33.Nxd6+ Ke7∓)* 33...gxf3 34.c4 *(34.Nxd6+ Ke7∓; 34.f6 Bh8=)* 34...dxc3 35.Nxc3±]

32.Re2 -0.48/23

[White should play 32.c4± 0.36/21 Rh3 33.g6+ Kg8 34.Ne4]

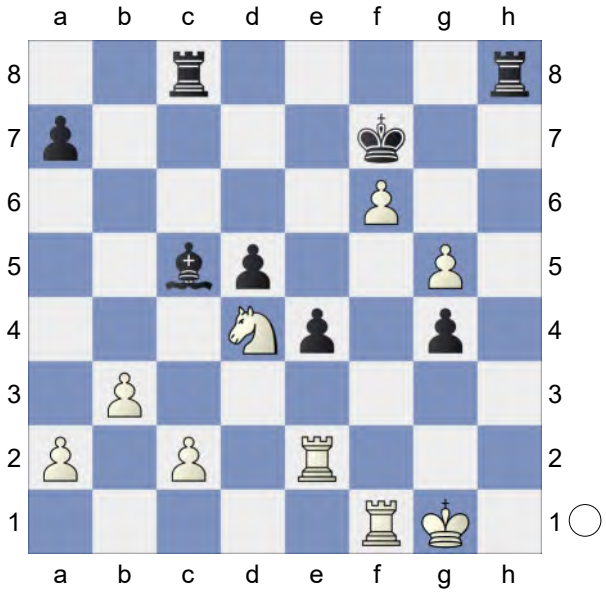
32...d5!∓ ...Rc3 is the strong threat.

33.f6 Bf8 Strongly threatening ...Rc3.

34.Nf5!

[34.Rxe5? Rxc2 *(34...Bd6 35.Rxd5 Bxg3 36.Rxd4∓)* 35.Re2 *(35.Rxd5? Rhh2-+)* 35...d3 36.Rxc2 dxc2-+]

34...e4 35.Nxd4 Bc5↑

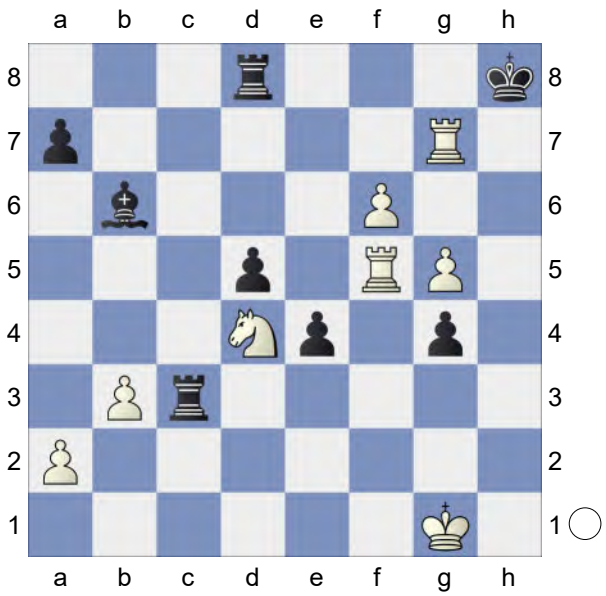


Black is pushing. **36.c3 Bb6 37.Rf5 Rhd8 38.Rh2** -1.37/25

[38.Kg2!= -0.05/21]

38...Rxc3∓ 39.Rh7+ Kg8! 40.Rg7+ Kh8

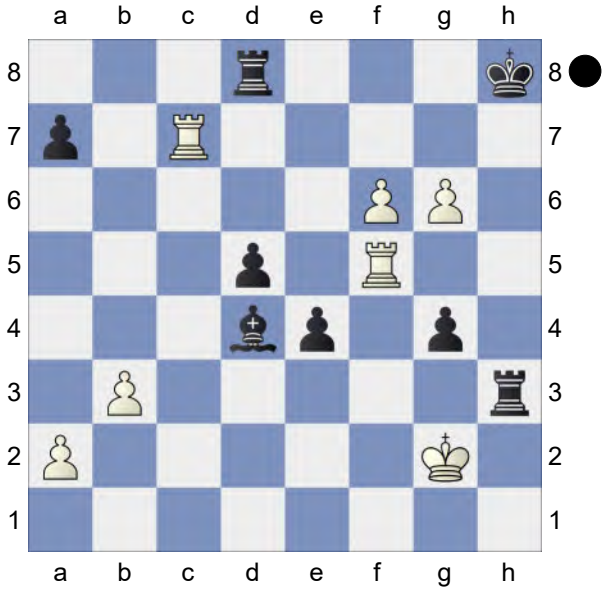
(Diagram)



41.Kg2 Dodges Rf3 **41...Bxd4 42.g6 Rh3** Prevents Rh5+.

[And not 42...Rc2+ 43.Kg3 Bxf6 44.Rh7+ Kg8 45.Rxf6∓]

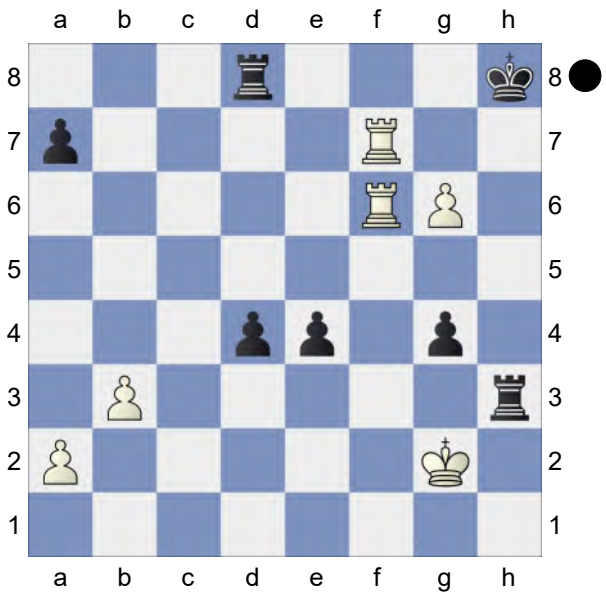
43.Rc7



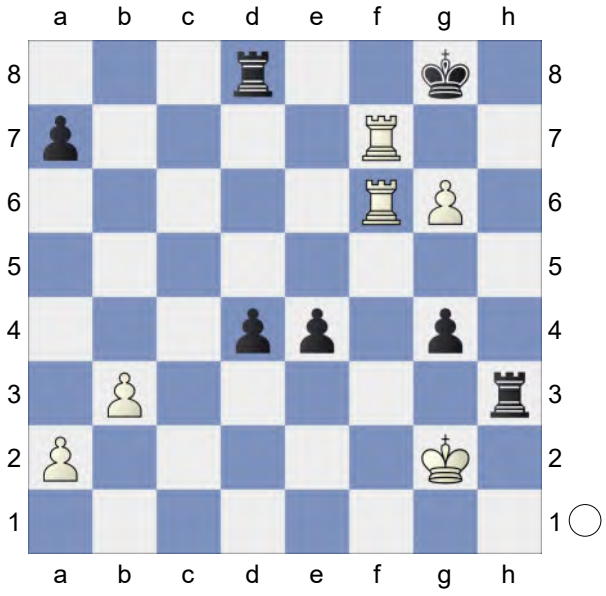
Prevents Rc8. aiming for g7+. **43...Bxf6 44.Rxf6 d4 45.Rcf7**

[Don't blunder 45.Rf4? d3 46.Rc1 d2-+]

(Diagram)

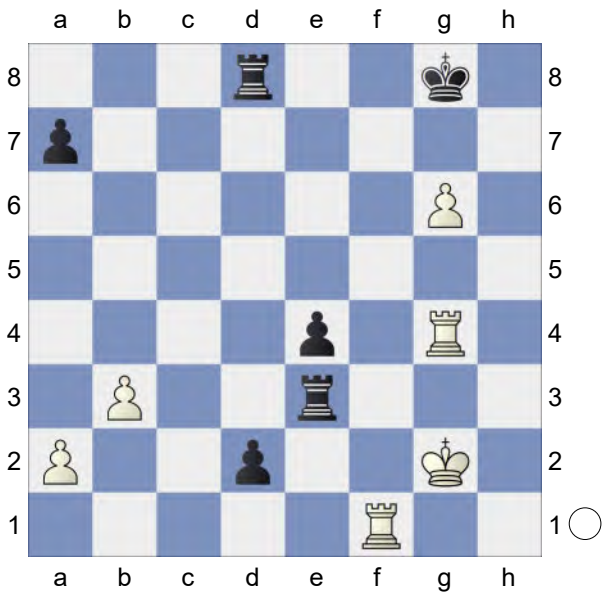


45...Kg8!



46.Rf4 -6.78/22
[46.g7 -2.97/21 Rf3 47.Rf8+ Kxg7 48.Rxd8 Kxf6 49.Rxd4]
46...d3-+ Black is clearly winning.
47.Rxg4 d2 48.Rf1 Re3
[Inferior is 48...d1Q 49.Rxd1 Rhd3 50.Re1=]

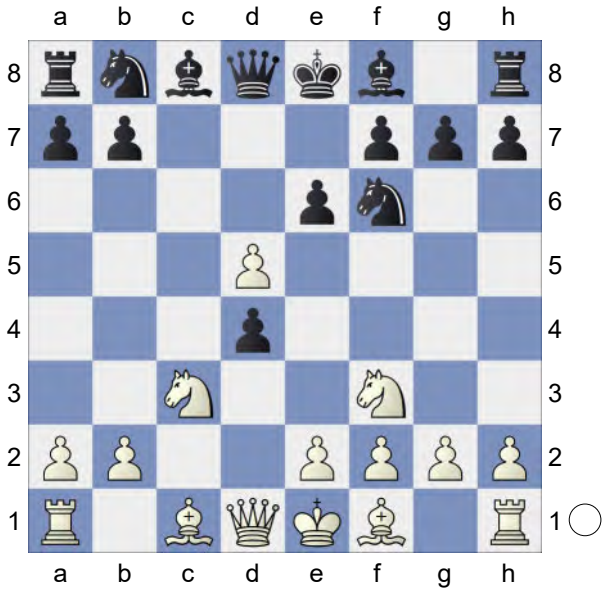
(Diagram)



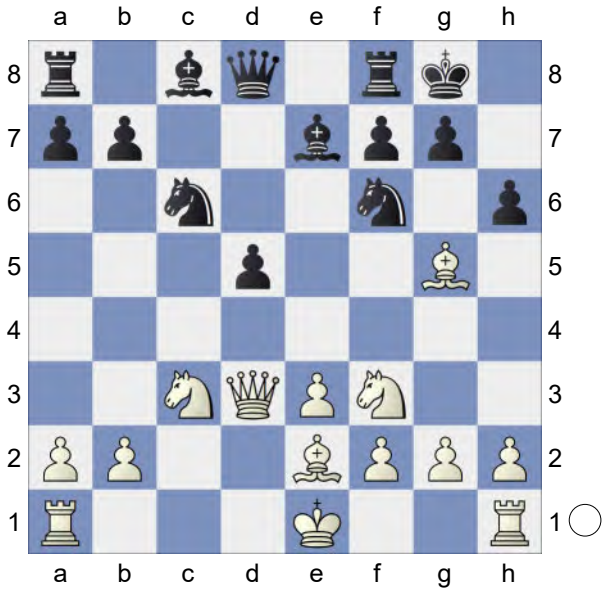
Weighted Error Value: White=0.69/ Black=0.15 (very precise)
0-1

77 **D41**
□ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
■ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
Tata Steel Challengers (11.7) 31.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D50: Queen's Gambit Declined: Dutch-Peruvian Gambit **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 cxd4**

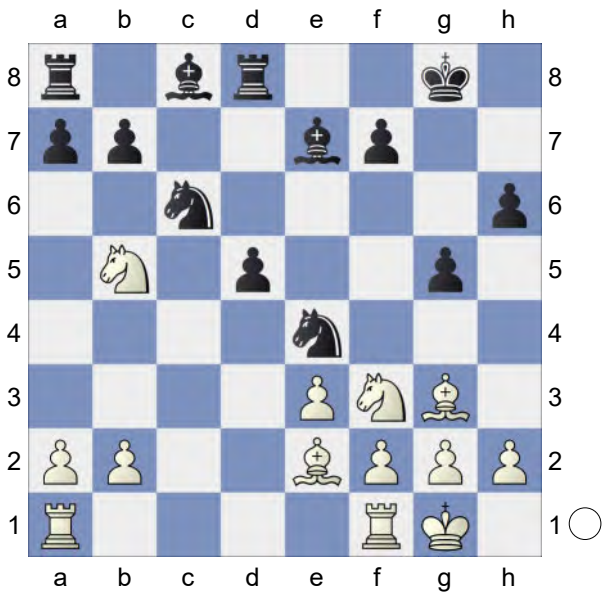


6.Qxd4 exd5N
[6...Nxd5 7.e4 Nxc3 8.Qxc3 Nc6
A) 9.a3 Bd7 10.Be2 Rc8 11.0-0 Na5 12.Qd3 Ba4 13.Qxd8+ Rxd8 14.Be3 Nb3 15.Bd1 b5 *(15...a6 16.Bxb3 Bxb3 17.Rac1 Bd6 18.Bb6 Ra8 19.Nd4 Ba4 20.Rc4 Bd7 21.Rd1 0-0 22.e5 Bb5 23.Nxb5 axb5 24.Re4 Be7 25.Rd7 Rfc8 26.g3 Bf8 27.Rxb7* Queen'S Gambit-5.cd5 cd4 6. ♕d4 ♘d5 Survey 2021 *)* 16.Bxb3 Bxb3 17.Rfc1 e5 18.Nxe5 a6 19.Nc6 1-0 Anand,V (2753)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2784) Nations Cup Online Prelim Chess.com INT 2020 (5.1);
B) 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.0-0 Qb6 11.a4 Qc5 12.Qd3 *(12.Bd2 Qxc3 13.Bxc3 a6 14.Bc4 Rg8 15.Rfd1 Bb4 16.Bxb4 Nxb4 17.Ne5 Bc6 18.Bb3 Ke7 19.f3 Rgd8 20.Kf2 Be8 21.Ke2 f6 22.Nc4 b5 23.Ne3 Nc6 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Bd1 Nd4+ 26.Ke1 Rc8* ½-½ Kamsky,G (2695)-Topalov,V (2640) Linares 12th 1994 (6) *)* 12...Qd6 13.Qc2 a6 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.Be2 Rc8 16.Be3 Nd4 17.Nxd4 Qxc2 18.Nxc2 Rxc2 19.Rd2 Rxd2 20.Bxd2 Bd6 21.Bc3 ½-½ Berecz,A (2404)-Schueppel,R (2470) Darmogray Memorial Bd02 3rd email ICCF email 2008]
7.Bg5 Be7 8.e3 0-0 9.Be2 Nc6 10.Qd3 h6

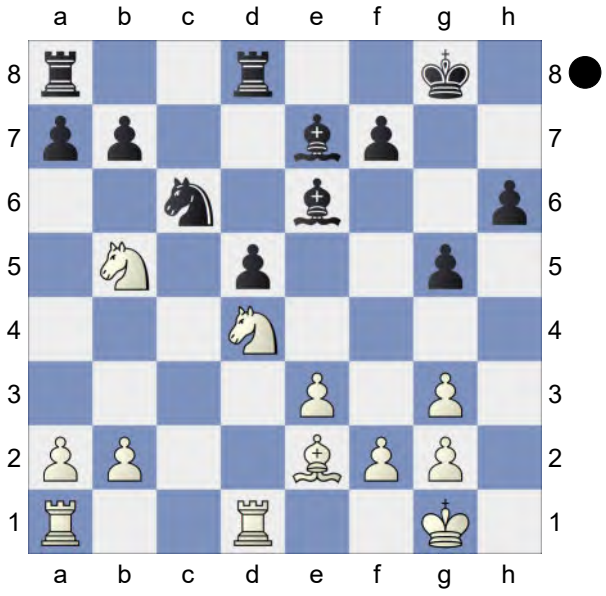


White has an edge. **11.Bh4 Qb6 12.0-0** With the idea Bxf6. **12...Rd8 13.Qb5 Qxb5** The position is equal.
[13...d4 seems wilder. 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nd5 Rxd5 16.Qxd5 dxe3 17.Qe4 exf2+ 18.Rxf2 Ne7]
14.Nxb5 g5 15.Bg3 Ne4

(Diagram)

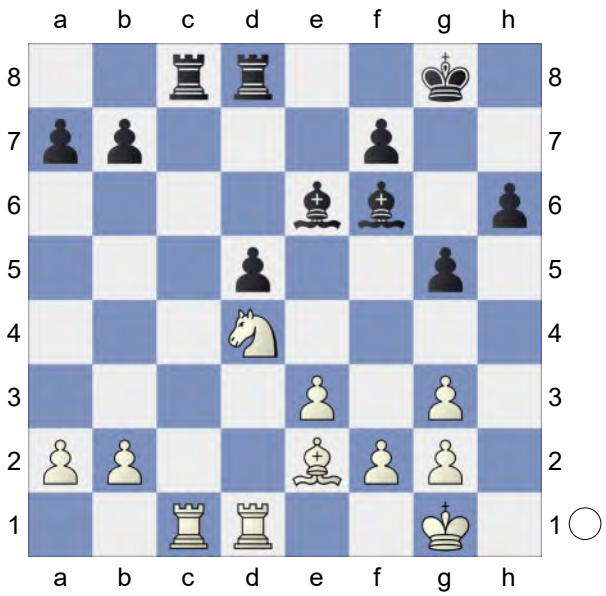


16.Rfd1 Nxg3 17.hxg3 Be6 18.Nfd4

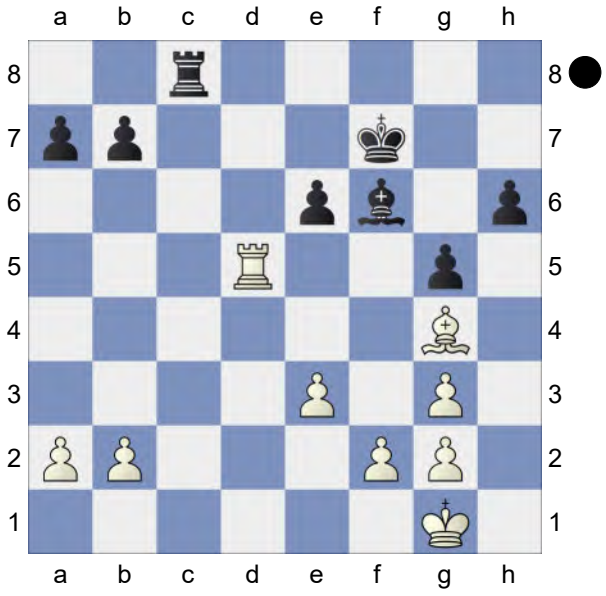


Black must now prevent Nxe6. **18...Rac8 19.Rac1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bf6**

(Diagram)

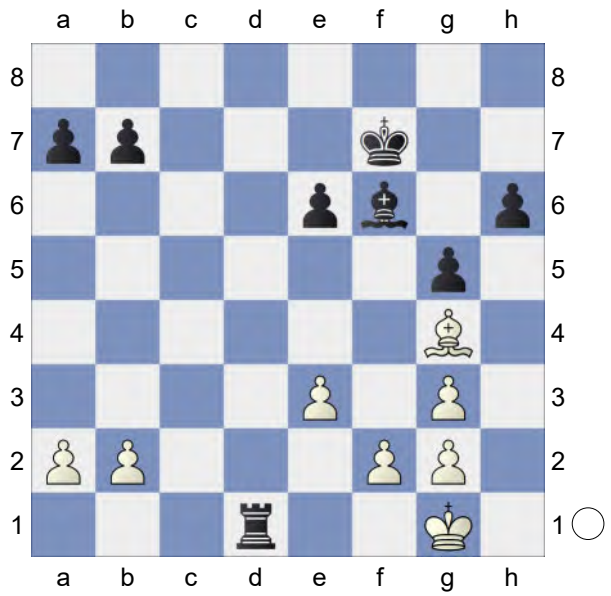


21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Bg4 Kf7 23.Rxc8 Rxc8 24.Rxd5=

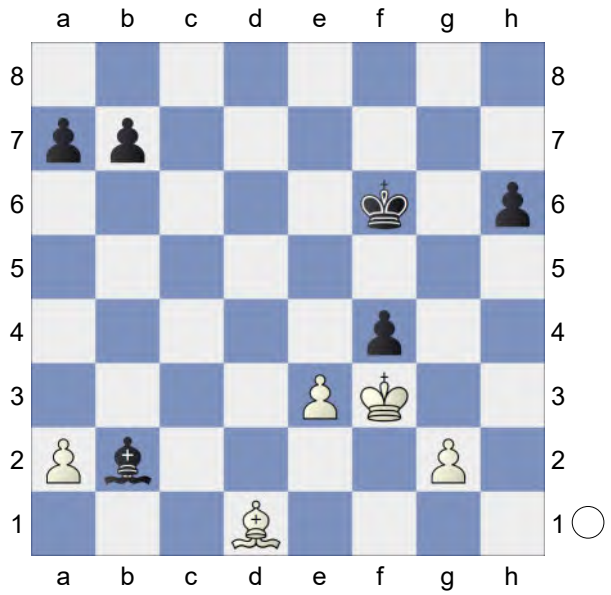


Endgame. Pin. KRB-KRB **24...Rc1+ 25.Rd1 Rxd1+**

(Diagram)

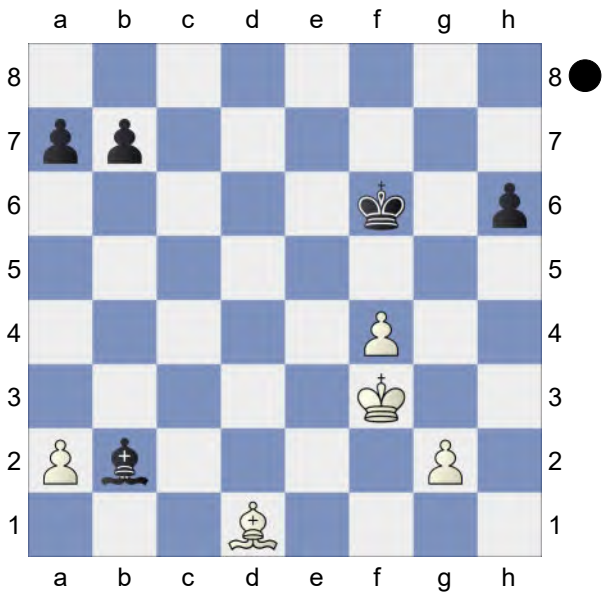


26.Bxd1 Bxb2 KB-KB **27.f4 Kf6 28.Kf2 e5 29.Kf3 exf4 30.gxf4 gxf4**



31.exf4

(Diagram)

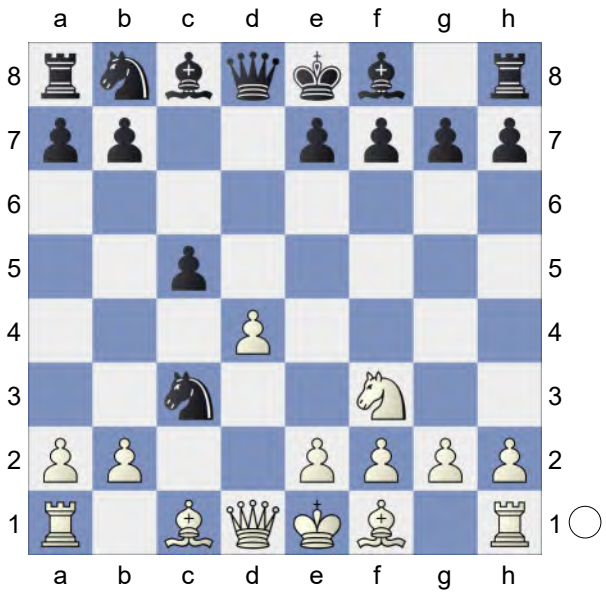


Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

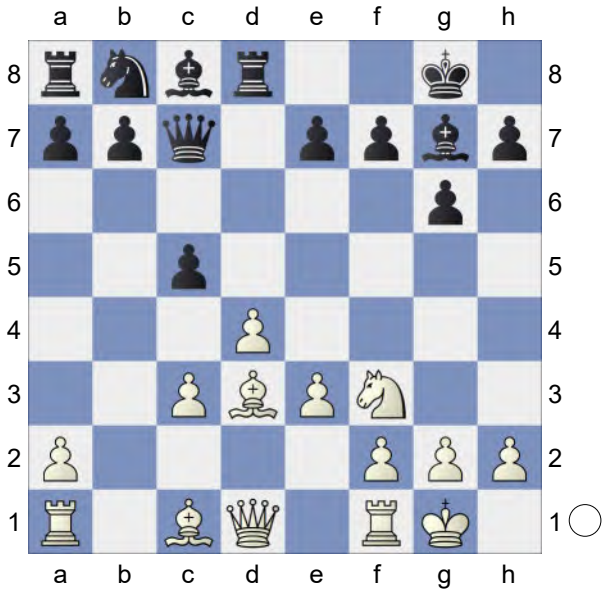
½-½

78 **A34**
□ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
■ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
Tata Steel Challengers (12.1) 01.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

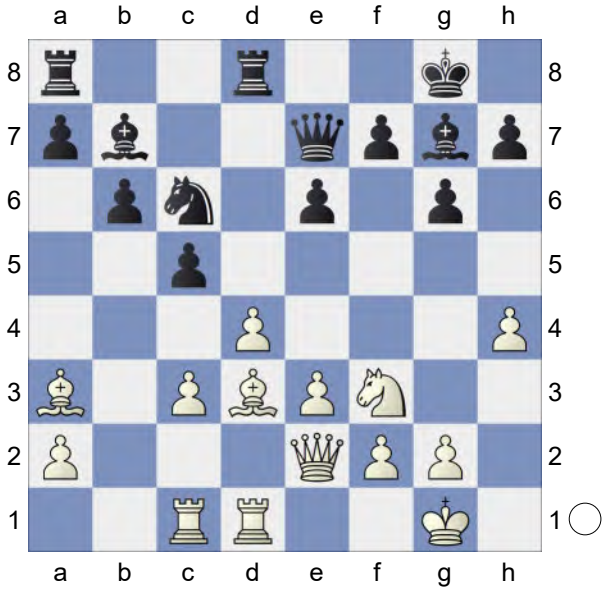
D94: Grünfeld: 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 e3 **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.d4**
[5.e3 e6 6.Qc2 Be7 7.a3 0-0 8.b3 b6 9.Bb2 Ba6 10.Bxa6 Nxa6 11.h4 Nac7 12.Ne2 Bf6 13.Ng5 g6 14.Nf3 Bxb2 15.Qxb2 f6 16.b4 e5 17.bxc5 bxc5 18.Qc2 Ne6 19.0-0 Rc8 0-1 Morozevich,A (2760)-Caruana,F (2774) Makedonia Palace GP Thessaloniki GRE 2013 (7.6)]
5...Nxc3



6.bxc3 g6 7.e3N
[7.e4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Ba3 cxd4 12.cxd4 Bg4 13.Bc5 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Bxd4 15.Rad1 Bxc5 16.Rxd8 Rfxd8 17.Qc3 Bb6 18.a4 Rd6 19.a5 Bd4 20.Qb3 Rad8 21.g3 Re6 0-1 Model Games-Jan Timman - Garry Kasparov, I My First Grünfeld Opening Repertoire 2023]
7...Bg7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0 Qc7 aiming for ...cxd4. **10.Bd3 Rd8**

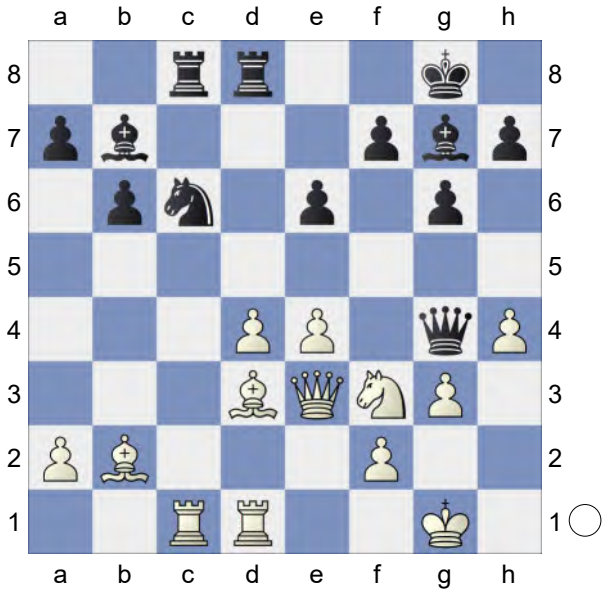


11.Ba3 b6 12.Qe2 The position is equal. **12...Nc6 13.Rac1 Bb7 14.Rfd1 e6 15.h4 Qe7**



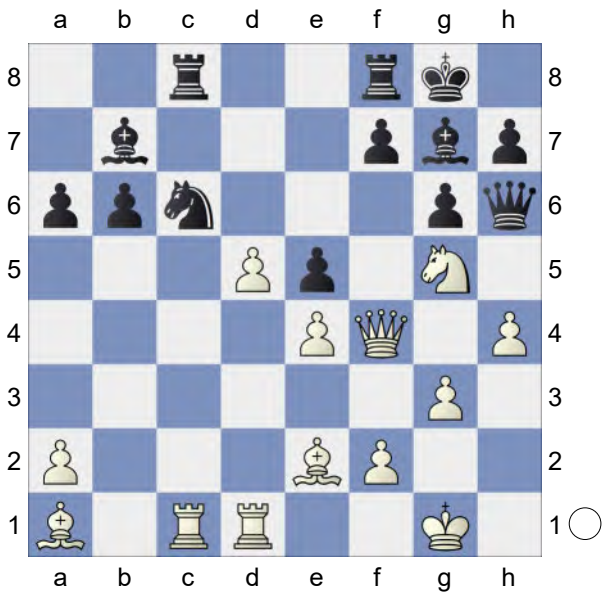
16.e4 Qf6 17.Bb2
[17.e5!? Qf4 18.Bb2± *(18.dxc5 Nxe5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5∓)*]
17...Qf4 18.g3 Qg4 19.Qe3! Inhibits Bh6. **19...cxd4** 1.31/22 Black is now going downhill.
[19...Na5± 0.51/20]

20.cxd4± Hoping for Be2. **20...Rac8** 2.06/20
[20...e5± 1.37/19]

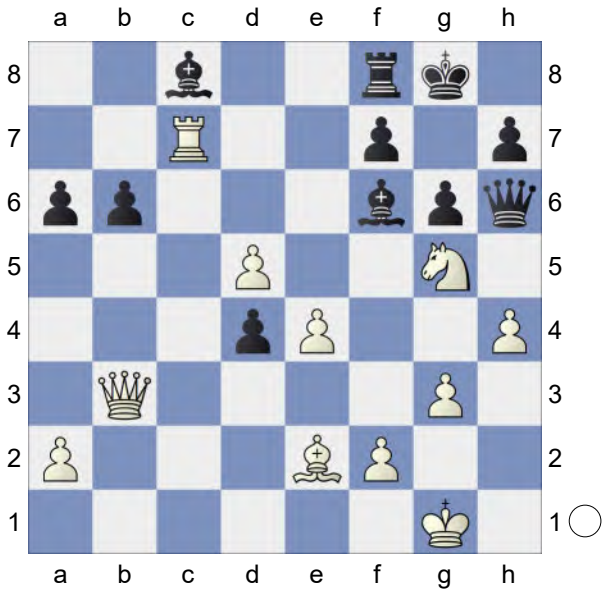


21.Be2!↑ Keeping Black busy. **21...Qh5** 4.30/21
[21...Nxd4 1.74/22 is a better defense. 22.Bxd4 *(22.Nxd4 Qxe4 23.Qxe4 Bxe4+-)* 22...Qxe4]
22.Ng5 Qh6 23.Qf4 Wards off Bf6
23...Rf8 24.Ba1 2.60/19
[⌓24.e5 4.44/19]
24...a6 3.82/21
[24...Ba8 2.60/19 was called for. 25.Bc4 Qh5]
25.d5 e5

(Diagram)

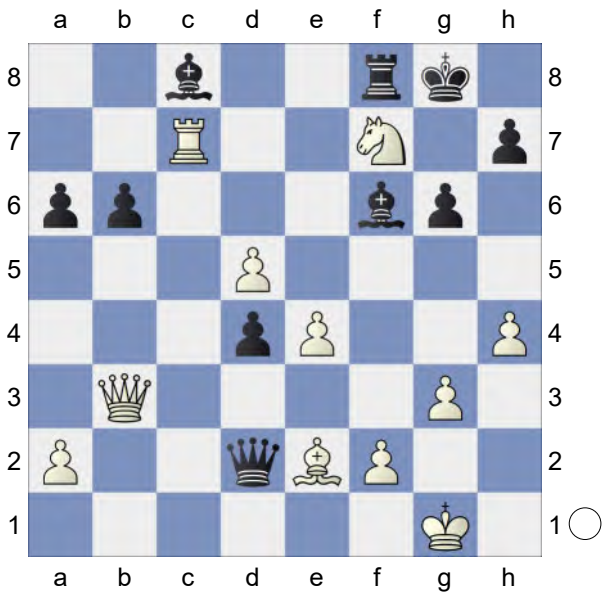


26.Qe3 Nd4 27.Bxd4 exd4 28.Qb3 Rxc1? 4.68/21
[28...Bf6 2.83/19 29.Qxb6 Bxg5 30.hxg5 Qxg5]
29.Rxc1 Bf6 Black is weak on the light squares **30.Rc7 Bc8**



31.Nxf7 Deflection **31...Qd2**
[31...Qg7 32.d6]

(Diagram)

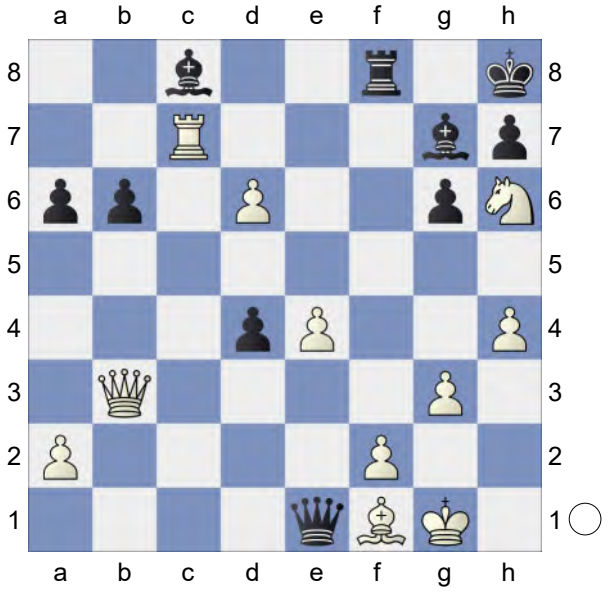


32.d6! Qe1+

[32...Qc3 33.Rxc3]

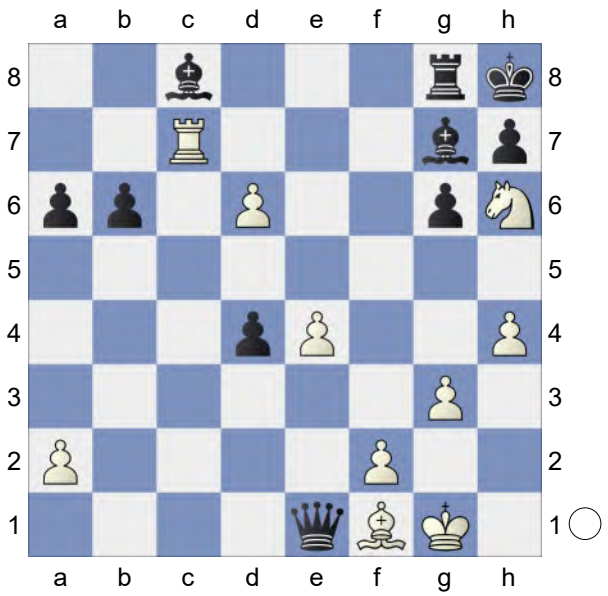
33.Bf1 White threatens Ng5+ and mate.

33...Bg7 34.Nh6+ Discovered Attack (Double Check). White mates. **34...Kh8**

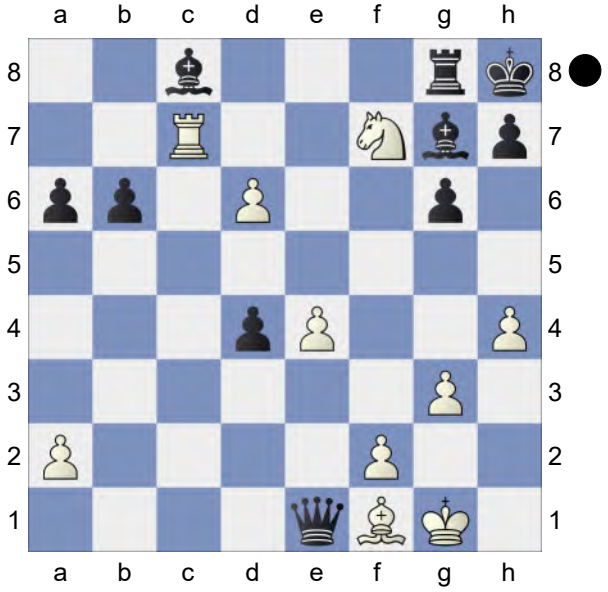


35.Qg8+!! Deflection **35...Rxg8**

(Diagram)



36.Nf7#

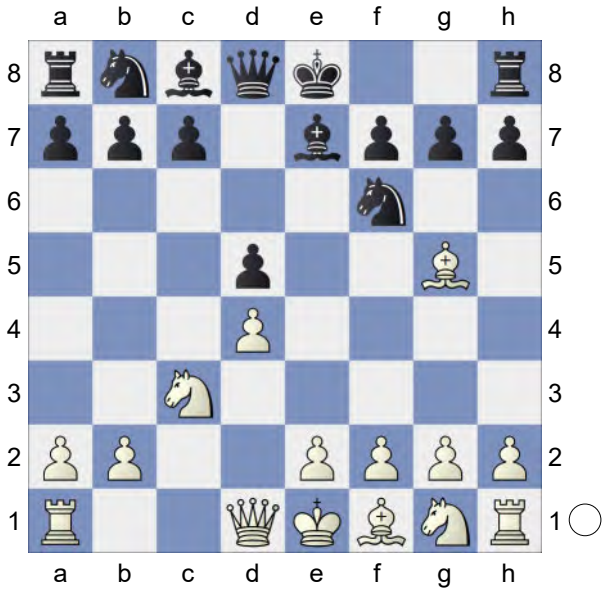


Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.89

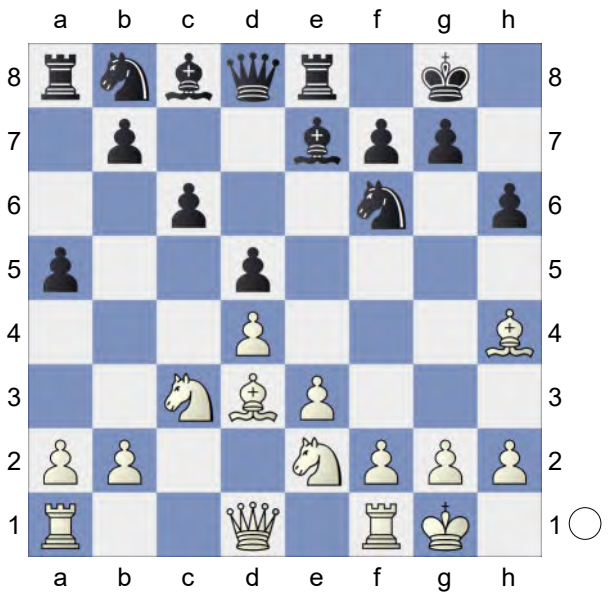
1-0

79 **D35**
□ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
■ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
Tata Steel Challengers (12.2) 01.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7**

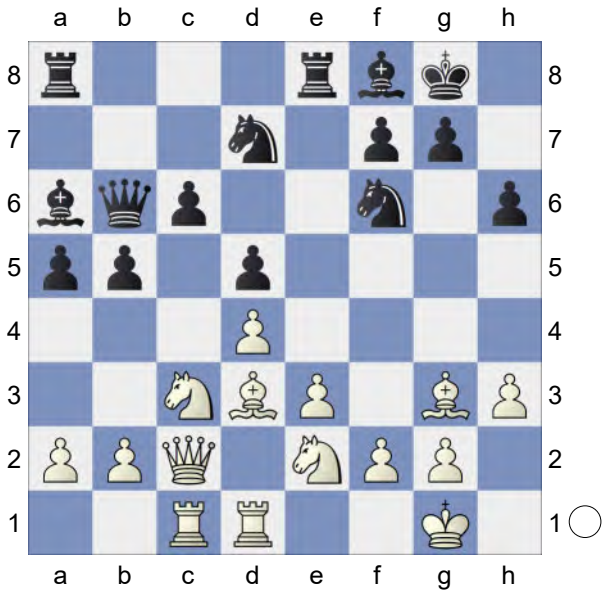


6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bh4 c6 9.Nge2 Re8 10.0-0 a5

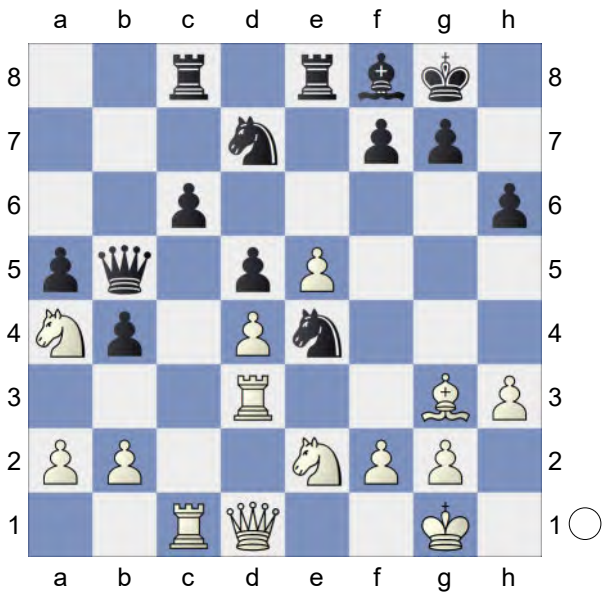


11.Qc2 White is slightly better.

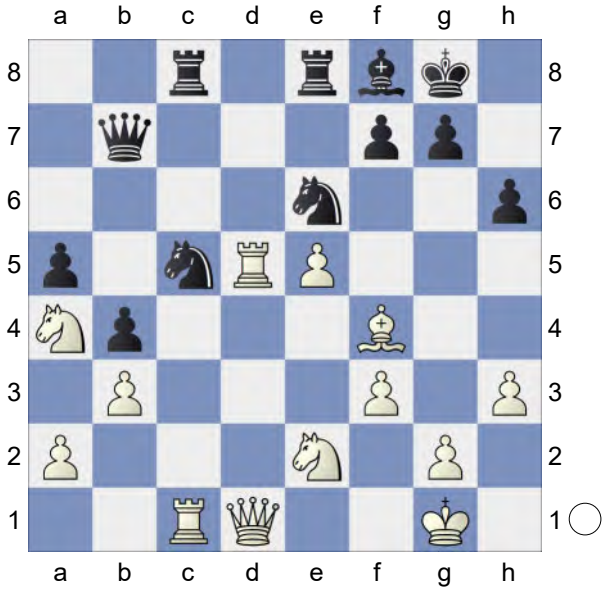
11...Nbd7 12.Bg3 Bf8
[12...Nf8 13.h3 Bd6 14.Rae1 Bxg3 15.Nxg3 Qd6 16.Na4 Be6 17.Nc5 b6 18.Na4 N8d7 19.Nc3 Nf8 20.Rc1 Bd7 21.Rfd1 Ne6 22.Bf5 Rab8 23.a3 Ng5 24.Nce2 Bxf5 25.Nxf5 Qd7 26.Nfg3 Rec8 27.Qf5 ½-½ Niemann,H (2692)-L'Ami,E (2627) Tata Steel-B 86th Wijk aan Zee 2024 (8)]
13.h3 b5 14.Rac1N
[14.Rfc1 Ba6 15.Nf4 Qb6 16.a4 b4 17.Nce2 Rac8 18.Bxa6 Qxa6 19.Qd3 Qb7 20.h4 Ne4 21.b3 Bd6 22.Nh5 Be7 23.f3 Nxg3 24.Nhxg3 Bxh4 25.Nf5 Be7 26.Nf4 Bf8 27.g4 g6 28.Nxg6 fxg6 ½-½ Mullyaminova,S (2014)-Steffen,G (1976) World Championship Match, 29th Game Moscow 3 (5) 29.Nd6 Bxd6 30.Qxg6+ Kf8 31.Qxd6+ Re7 32.Qxh6+ ½-½ Merriman,J (2014)-Thompson,I (1976) Berkshire Berks & Bucks op-A 2023 (5)]
14...Ba6 15.Rfd1 Qb6



16.e4 b4 17.Na4! Bxd3! 18.Rxd3 Qb5 19.e5 Ne4 20.Qd1 Rac8
(Diagram)

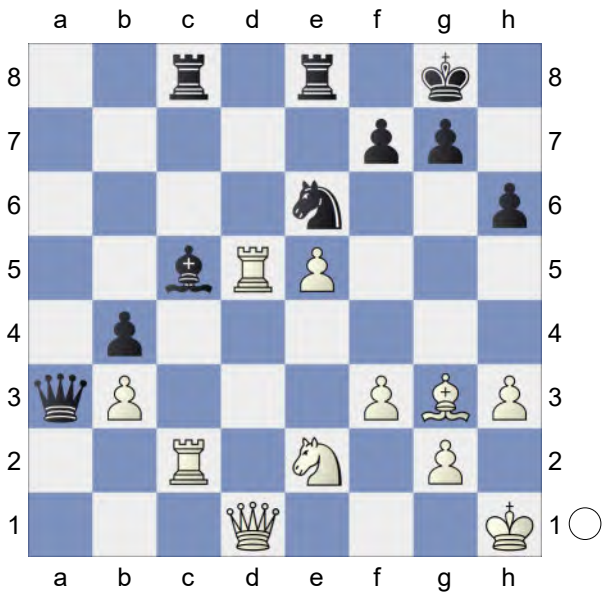


21.b3 Qb7 22.Bf4 c5! 23.f3 Ng5 24.dxc5 Nxc5 25.Rxd5 Nge6 0.38/22
[25...Nxa4= -0.06/23 feels stronger. 26.bxa4 Ne6]

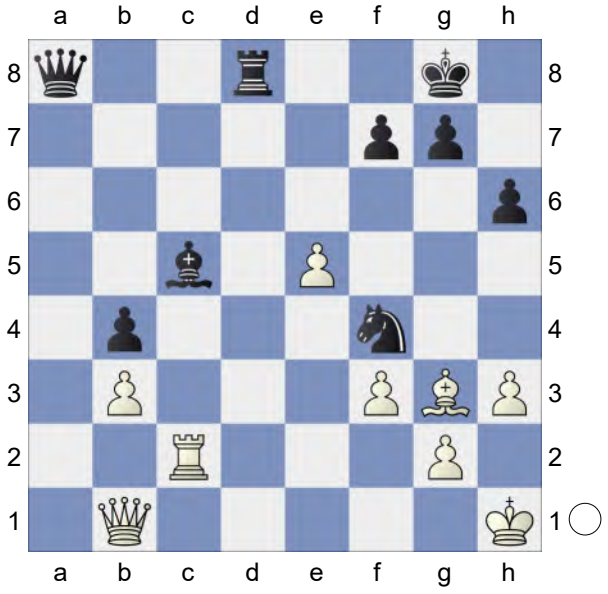


26.Nxc5± Bxc5+ 27.Kh1 Qa8 28.Rc2 a4 29.Bg3 axb3 30.axb3 Qa3

(Diagram)

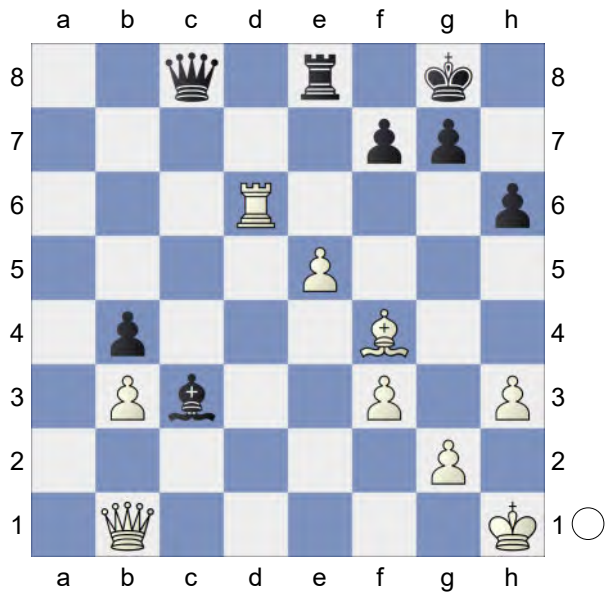


31.Qb1 Hoping for Ra2. **31...Qa8 32.Rd1 Rcd8 33.Nf4 Rxd1+ 34.Qxd1** Nxe6 is the strong threat. **34...Rd8 35.Qb1 Nxf4**

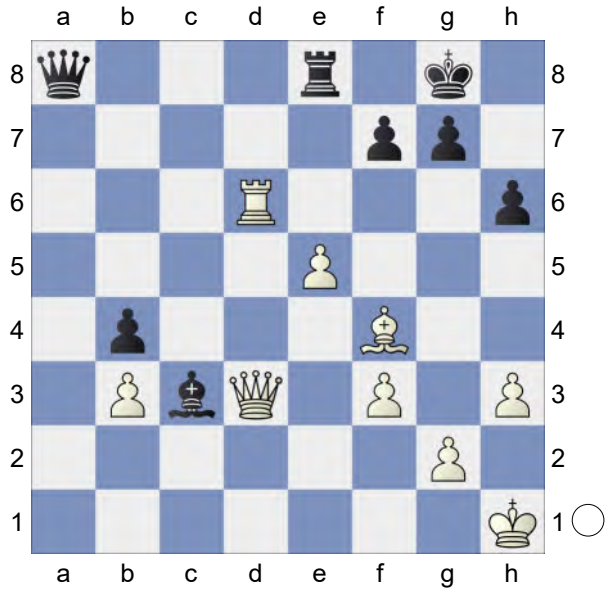


36.Bxf4 0.32/23
[Better is 36.Rxc5± 0.74/24 Nxh3 37.Qc1]
36...Bd4 37.Ra2 Qc8 38.Rd2 Black must now prevent Qd1. **38...Bc3** 1.23/25
[38...Bb6!± 0.36/22]
39.Rd6± Re8

(Diagram)

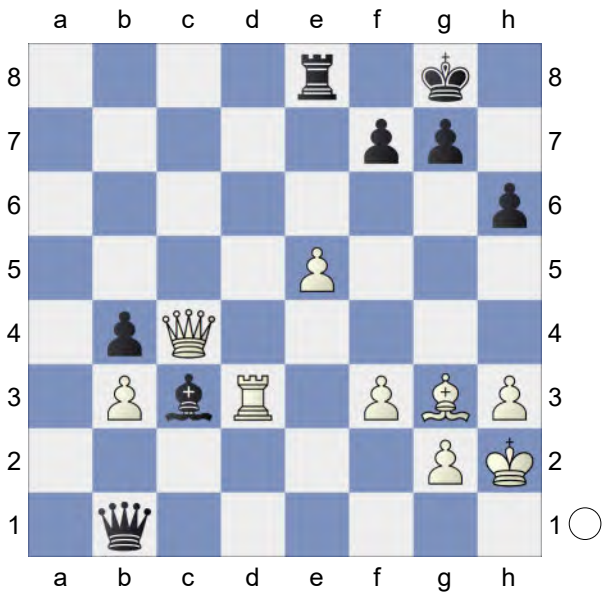


40.Qd3! Qa8 1.50/25
[Black should try 40...Qc5 1.00/24]

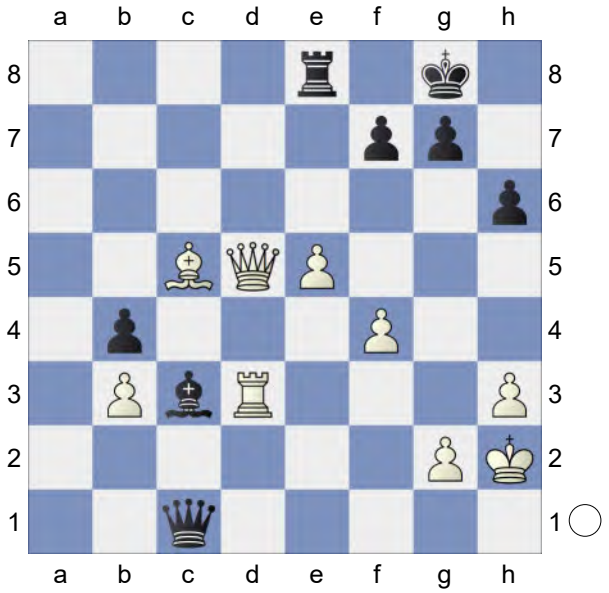


41.Kh2 White is more active. **41...Qa5**
42.Rd5 Qa1 43.Qc4 1.00/23
[⌓43.Qb5 1.52/24 Rf8 44.Qc4]
43...Qb1 44.Rd3 Qc2 1.88/23
[44...Be1± 0.97/23]
45.Bg3+- Qb1

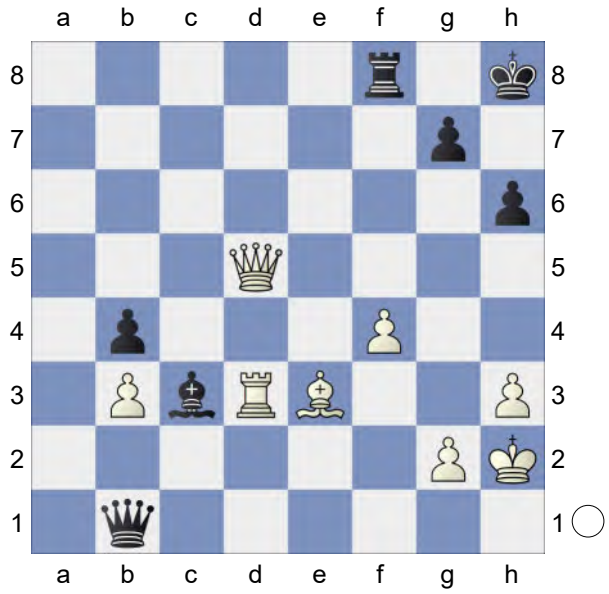
(Diagram)



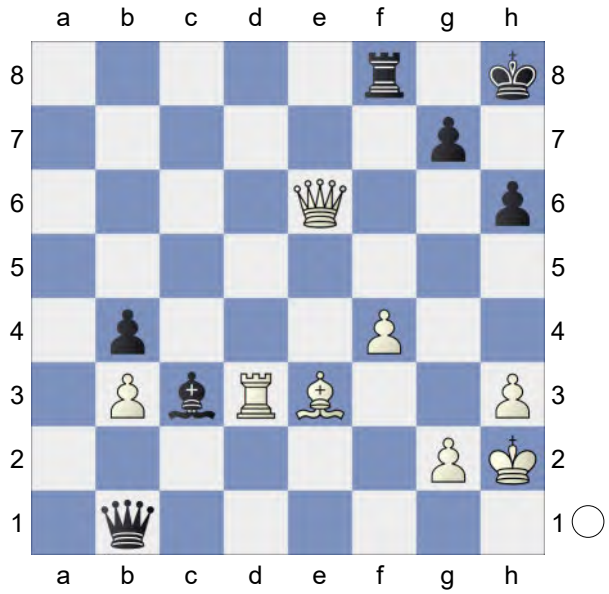
46.f4 Ra8 2.89/25
[46...Kh7± 1.60/23 keeps fighting. 47.Bh4 *(47.Qxf7 Qxd3 48.Qxe8 Bd4=)* 47...Kg8]
47.Bh4 Re8 48.Bf2 Ra8? 3.79/25
[48...h5 1.79/24 49.Qb5 Rf8]
49.Qd5 1.81/26
[⌓49.Qe4 3.79/25 Re8 50.Qc4]
49...Re8 2.19/23
[⌓49...Rf8 1.81/26 50.Qc4 Re8]
50.Bc5 Qc1 1.93/23
[50...h5± 1.42/22 51.Qc6 Rb8]



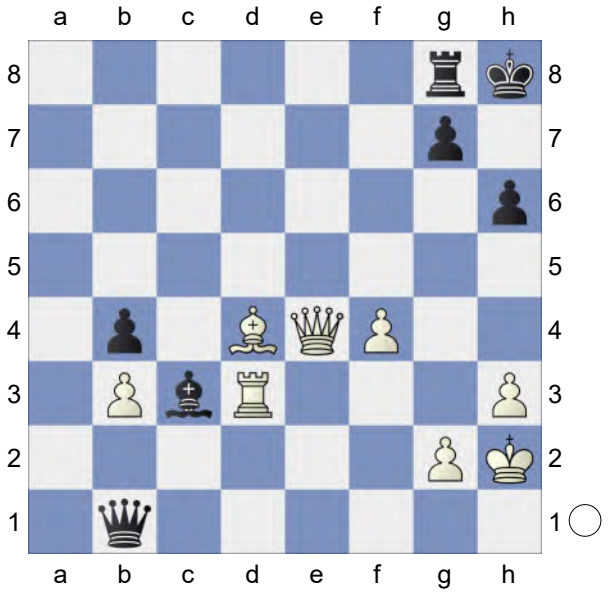
51.Be3 Qb1 52.Qc4 Ra8 2.31/24
[⌓52...Be1 1.78/22 53.Qe4 Bc3]
53.e6 fxe6 54.Qxe6+ Kh8 55.Qd5 Rf8 2.09/26
[55...Ra1± 1.55/27]



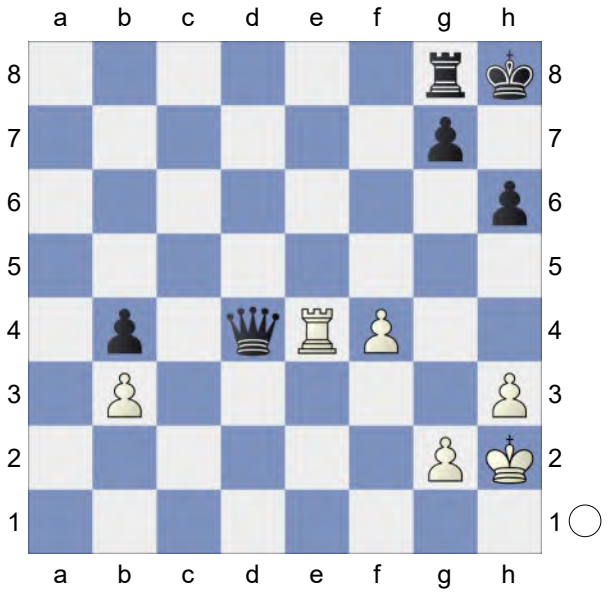
56.Qd6 0.71/24
[56.Qc4+- 2.09/26 is more deadly.]
56...Kg8? 2.66/27
[56...Rf6± 0.71/24 was called for.
57.Qd5 Kh7 58.Qe4+ Rg6]
57.Qe6+ Kh8



58.Bd4?? -5.23/24 **Kh7??** 2.65/28
[58...Qxd3-+ -5.23/24 and all is fine.
59.Qxh6+ Qh7]
59.Qe7 Rg8 60.Qe4+ Kh8



61.Qd5! Qb2 62.Qc4 Bxd4 63.Qxd4 Endgame. KQR-KQR
[63.Rxd4 Rb8 64.Qd5 Qc3±]
63...Qe2 64.Re3 Prevents Re8 **64...Qf2 65.Re4 Qxd4**



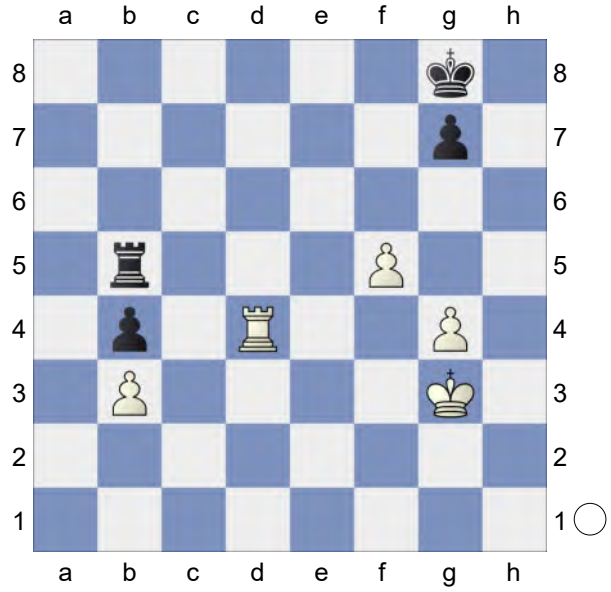
66.Rxd4 KR-KR **66...Rb8 67.f5 Rb5 68.g4 h5?** 4.55/26
[68...g5 2.77/25 69.Kg3 *(69.fxg6 Kg7+-)* 69...Kg7]
69.Kg3

[69.gxh5 Rxf5 70.Rxb4 Rxh5±]

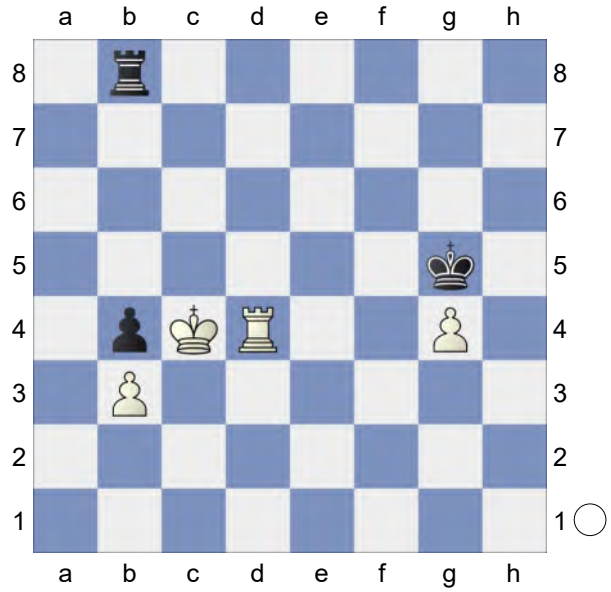
69...hxg4 5.05/31

[69...g5 3.32/25 was necessary. 70.gxh5 *(70.fxg6 Kg7+-)* 70...Rxf5 71.Rxb4 Rf1]

70.hxg4 Kg8



71.Kf4 g6 72.fxg6 Rd7 would now be deadly. **72...Kg7 73.Ke3 Kxg6 74.Kd3 Kg5 75.Kc4 Rb8**

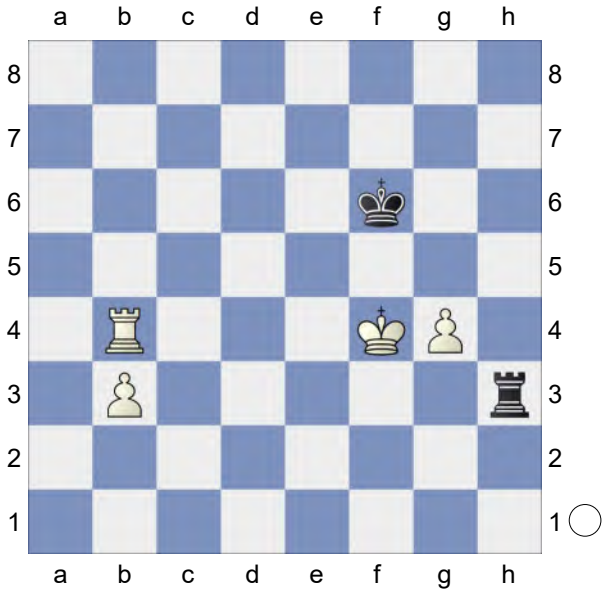


76.Kc5 Kf6? 6.15/30

[76...Rb7 3.35/27 77.Rxb4 Rc7+ 78.Kb5 Rb7+ 79.Kc5 Rc7+ 80.Kb6 Rc8]

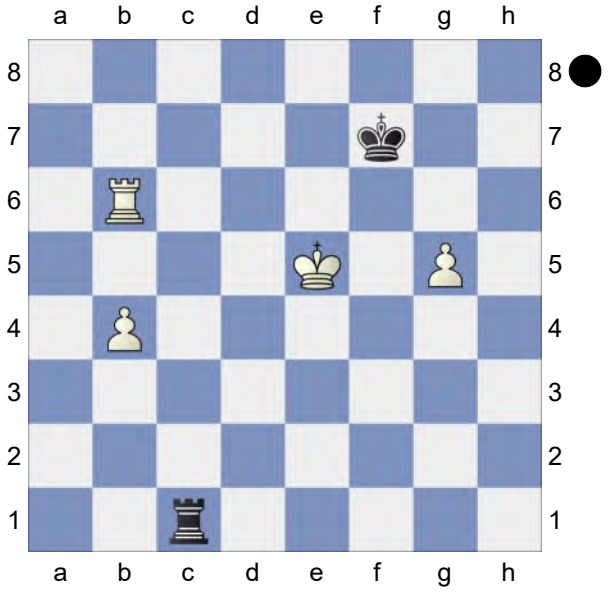
77.Rxb4 Rc8+ 78.Kd4 Rd8+ 79.Ke3 Rh8 80.Kf4 Rh3 7.07/29

[⌓80...Rd8 4.17/27 81.Rb6+ Kf7]



81.Rb6+ White is clearly winning.

81...Kf7 82.b4 Rc3 83.g5 Rc1 84.Ke5

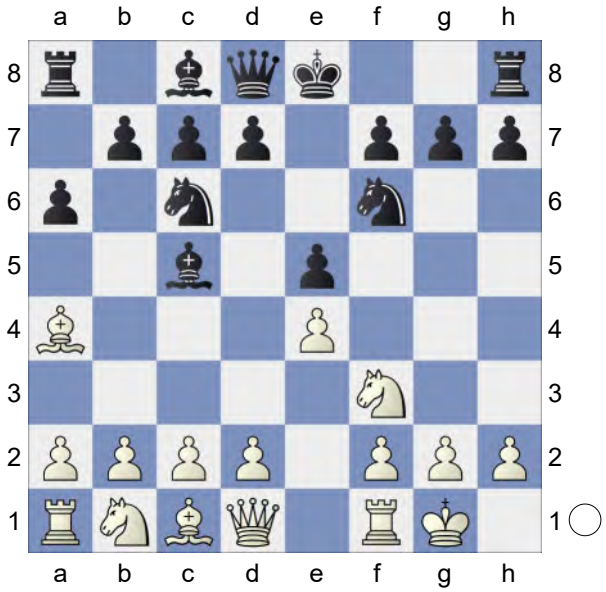


Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.38

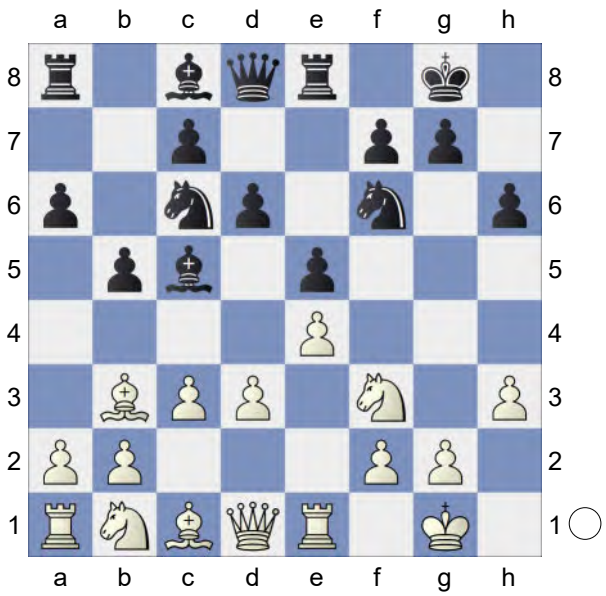
1-0

80 **C78**
□ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
■ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
Tata Steel Challengers (12.3) 01.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and Möller Defences **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Bc5**



6.c3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.d3 h6 9.Re1 0-0 10.h3 Re8

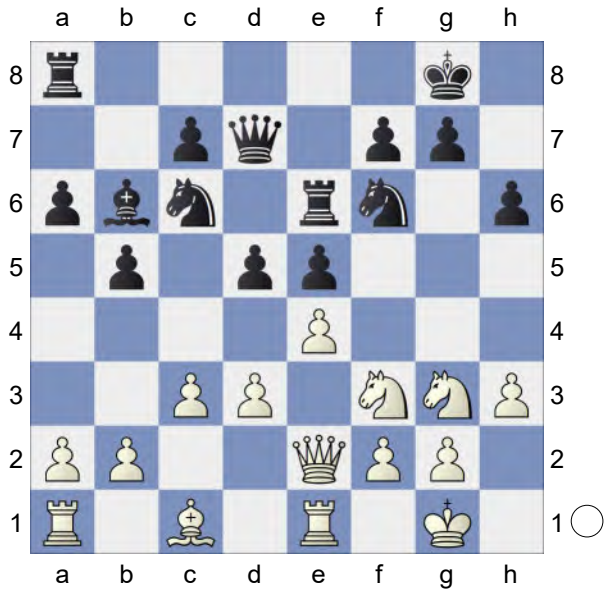


11.Nbd2 Bb6 12.Nf1 Be6N

[12...Ne7 13.Nh4 g5 14.Qf3 Kg7 15.Ng3 gxh4 16.Nh5+ Nxh5 17.Qxf7+ Kh8 18.Qxh5 Ng8 19.Bxh6 Qd7 20.Bf7 Rf8 1-0 Vovk,A (2614)-Anton,T (2435) Arad 122/121 2014]

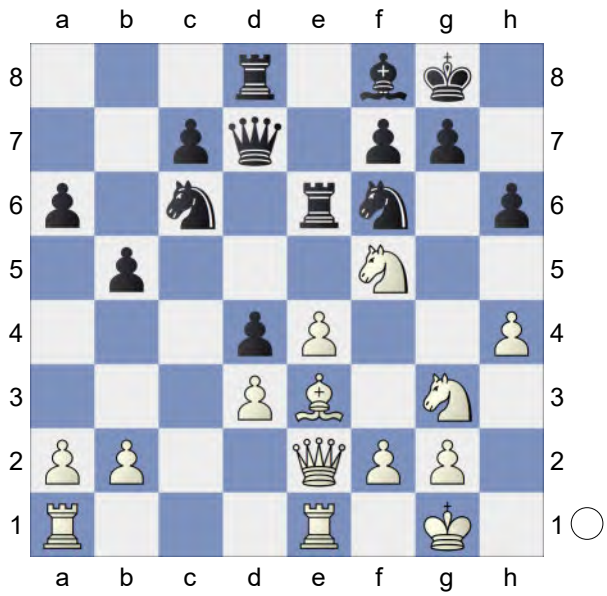
13.Bxe6 Rxe6 The position is equal.

14.Ng3 d5 15.Qe2 Qd7



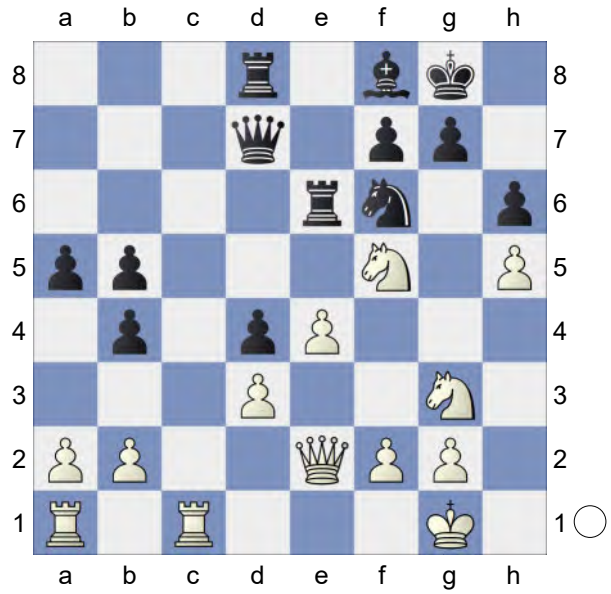
16.Nh4 Bc5 17.Nhf5 Bf8 18.h4 Rd8 19.Be3 d4 20.cxd4 exd4 0.01/21

[20...Nxd4∓ -0.41/19 is superior. 21.Bxd4 exd4]

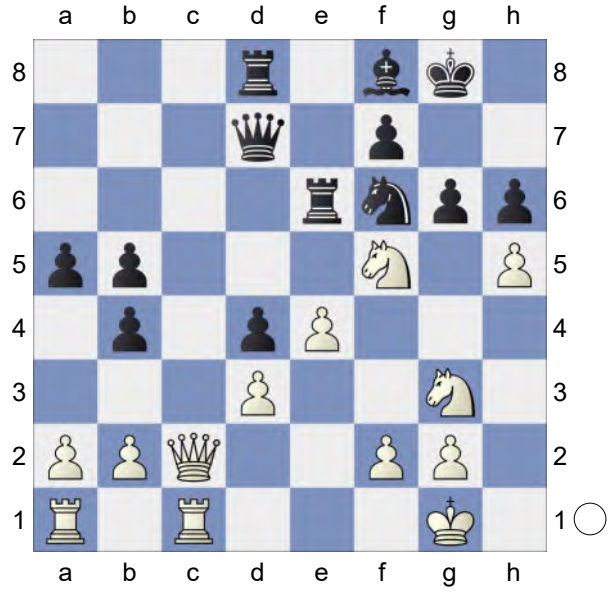


21.Bd2= Nb4 22.Rec1 Wards off Nc2

22...c5 23.Bxb4 cxb4 24.h5 a5

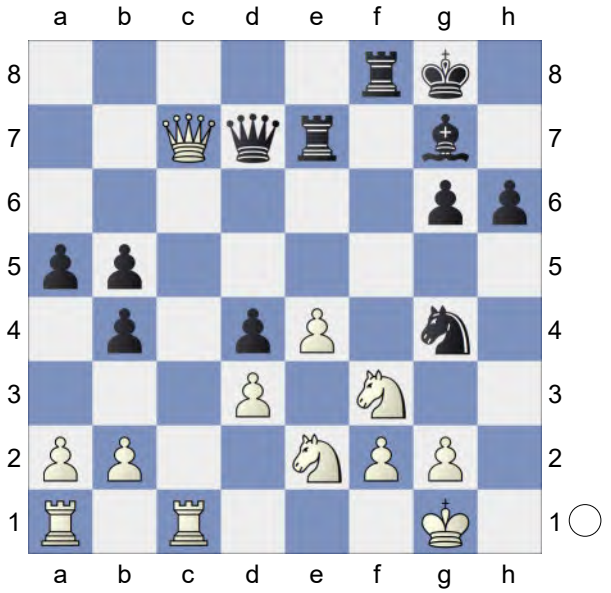


25.Qc2 0.04/19
[25.Qf3!± 0.90/19]
25...g6 0.61/21
[Better is 25...a4= 0.04/19]



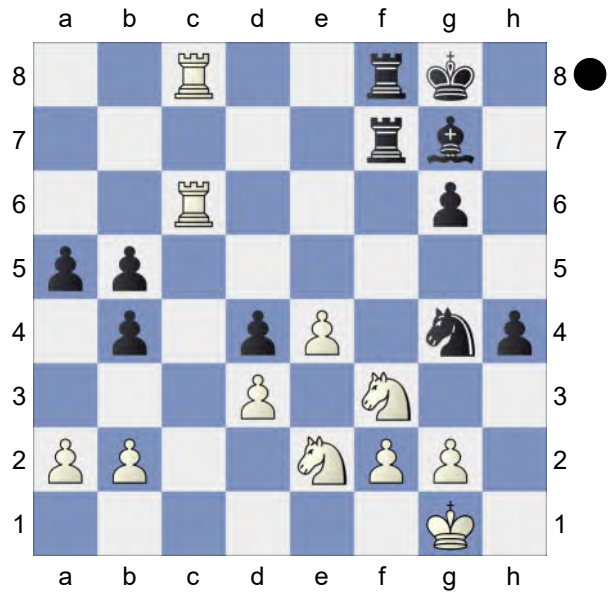
26.hxg6 0.01/21
[26.Nh4!± 0.61/21]
26...fxg6 27.Nh4 Excellent horsemanship. **27...Ng4 28.Nf3 Bg7** 1.19/21
[28...Bd6= -0.02/21]
29.Ne2 And now Qc7 would win.

29...Rf8 1.99/21
[29...Ne5± 0.88/20 keeps fighting.]
30.Qc7+- Re7

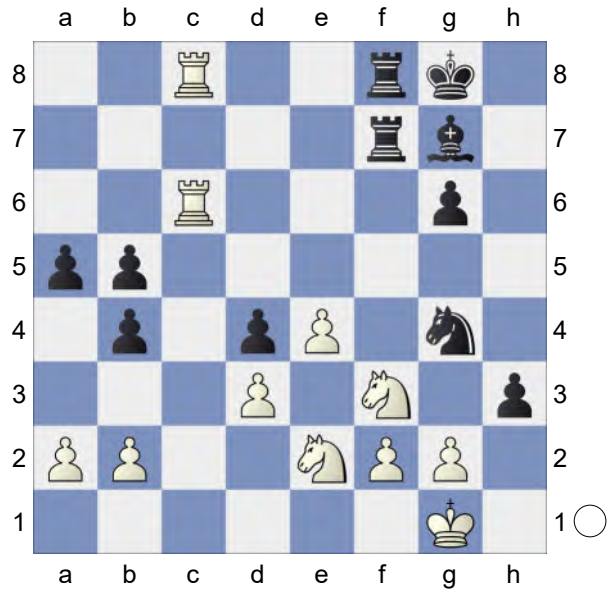


31.Qxd7
[31.Qxa5 Ref7 32.Ng3 *(32.Qxb4 Rxf3 33.gxf3 Ne5-+)* 32...Rxf3 33.gxf3 Ne5-+]
31...Rxd7 32.Rc5 Rdf7 2.46/21
[32...Rb7 1.73/21 was worth a try. 33.Rac1 *(33.Nexd4 Nxf2 34.Rc6 Nxd3∓)* 33...Rff7]
33.Rac1
[33.Nexd4 Bxd4 34.Nxd4 Rxf2∓ *(34...Nxf2 35.Rc6=)*]
[33.Rxb5 Rc8 34.Kf1 *(34.Nexd4 Bxd4 35.Nxd4 Rxf2=; 34.Rxa5 Rc2±; 34.Rc1 Rxc1+ 35.Nxc1 Rc7=)* 34...Rc2]
33...h5 34.Rc8
[34.Nfxd4? Rxf2 *(34...Nxf2? 35.Rc8-+)* 35.g3 Ne3-+]
[34.Rxb5 b3 35.Rxb3 *(35.Rxa5 bxa2 36.Rxa2 Rb7+-; 35.axb3 Rd8+-)* 35...h4]
[34.Nexd4 Bxd4 *(34...Nxf2 35.Rxb5 Nxd3 36.Rc4∓)* 35.Nxd4 Rxf2∓]
34...h4 35.R1c6
[35.Nxh4? Rxf2 *(35...Nxf2?*

36.Nxg6 Pin Rxc8 37.Rxc8+ Kh7 38.Ngf4±) 36.Nxg6 Rxc8 *(36...Rxe2? 37.Nxf8 Rxb2 38.Nd7+ Kf7 39.R8c2+-)* 37.Rxc8+ Kf7-+]



Hoping for Rxf8+. **35...h3**



36.Rxf8+

[36.Nfxd4? h2+ *(36...Nxf2? 37.Ne6+- Pin)* 37.Kh1 Rxf2 *(37...Nxf2+ 38.Kxh2 Be5+ 39.Kg1=)* 38.Rxf8+ Kxf8 39.Rc8+ Kf7-+]

[36.gxh3 Rxf3 37.hxg4 Rxd3=]

36...Rxf8 37.Nexd4 0.72/21

[37.Nfxd4? h2+ *(37...Rxf2? 38.gxh3 Bxd4 39.Nxd4+-; 37...Nxf2 38.Rxg6 Nxd3 39.Nf5±)* 38.Kh1 Rxf2 39.Rc8+ Kh7-+]

[37.gxh3 Rxf3 38.hxg4 Rxd3∓]

[37.Rxg6+- 1.94/22 h2+ 38.Nxh2 Nxf2 39.Nxd4 Nxd3 40.Nf5 *(40.Nxb5 Nxb2 41.Nf3 Nd3±)*]

37...h2+ 1.44/23 **38.Nxh2± Nxh2?** 4.63/24

[38...Nxf2? 39.Ne6 *(39.Nxb5 Nxd3 40.Rxg6 Nxb2=)* 39...Nxd3 40.Nxf8 Kxf8 41.b3+- *(41.Rxg6 Bxb2 42.Rg5 a4=)*]

[38...Ne5 1.66/22]

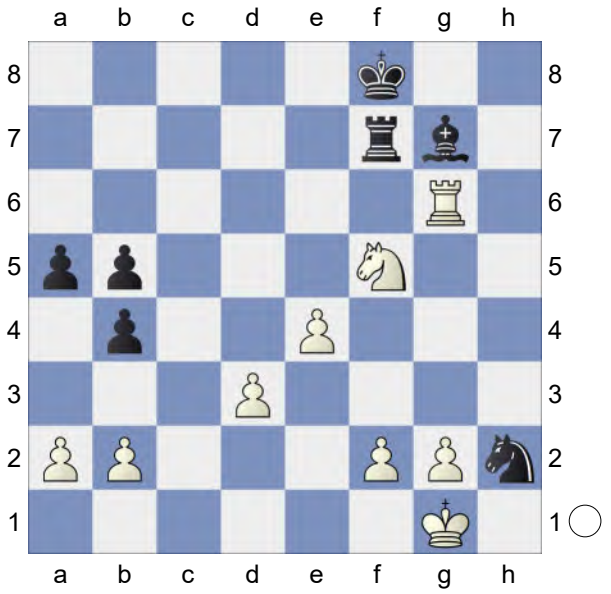
39.Rxg6+- White is clearly winning.

[39.Ne6 Rf6±]

39...Rf7 40.Nf5

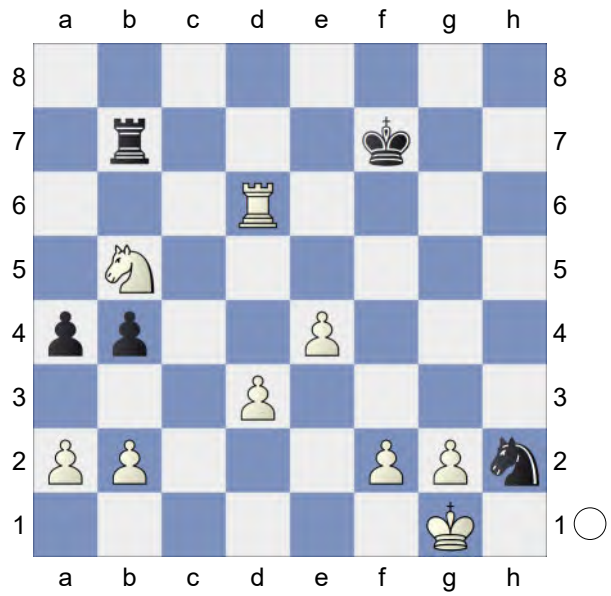
[40.Kxh2 Kh7 *(40...Rxf2?* perishes. *41.Nf5+-)* 41.Rxg7+ Kxg7=]

40...Kf8

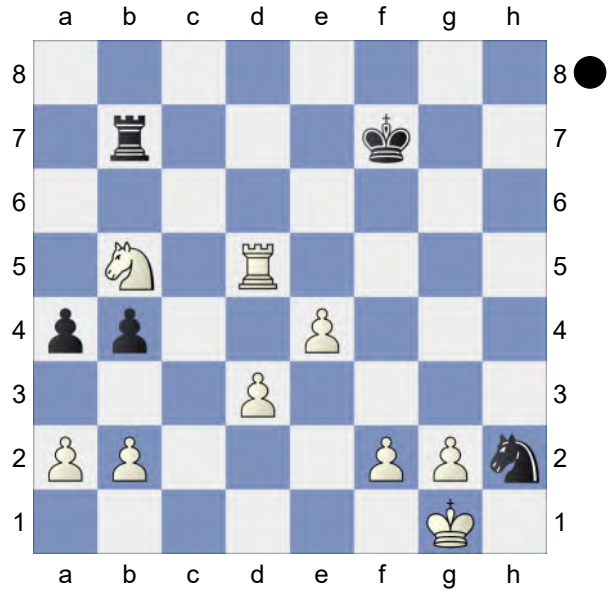


41.Nxg7 a4 42.Ne6+ Ke8 43.Nd4 Rd7 44.Nxb5 Kf7 45.Rd6 Rb7

(Diagram)



46.Rd5

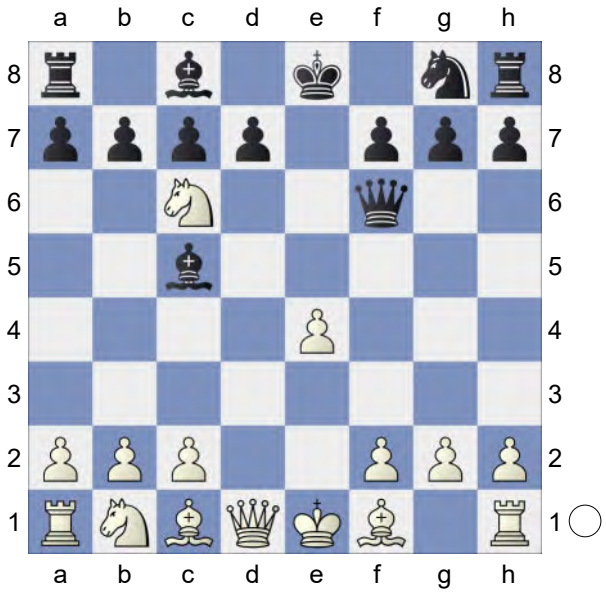


Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.47

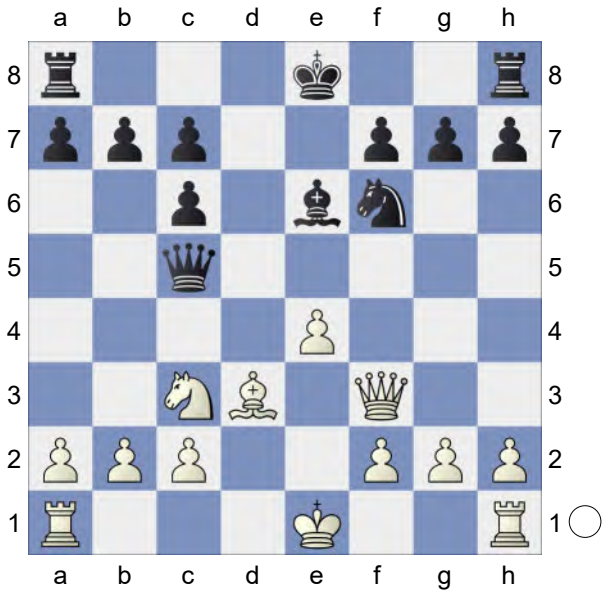
1-0

81 **C45**
□ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
■ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
Tata Steel Challengers (12.4) 01.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C45: Scotch Game **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6 Qf6**

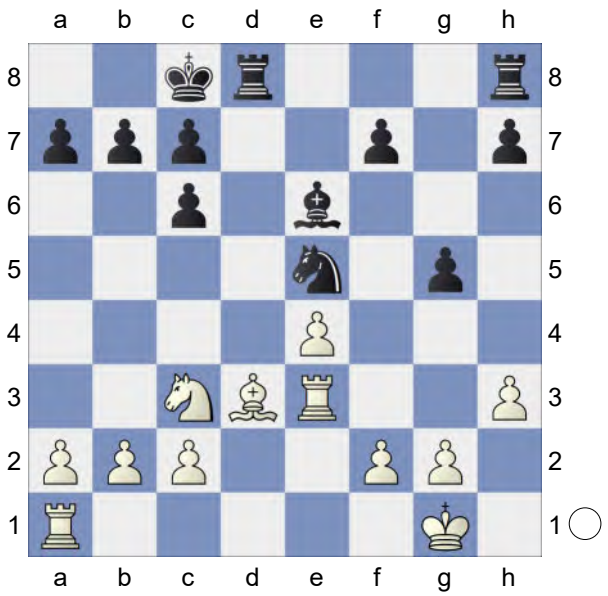


6.Qf3 dxc6 7.Nc3 Qe7
[7...Be6 8.Be3 Bb4 *(8...Bd6 9.Qxf6 Nxf6 10.h3 Bb4 11.f3 0-0-0 12.Bd3 Nd7 13.0-0 Ne5 14.Be2 Bc4 15.Rfe1 Bxe2 16.Rxe2 Nc4 17.a3 Bxc3 18.bxc3 a5 19.Bf4 f6 20.Kf2 b6 21.h4 c5 22.Be3 a4 23.Bf4* 0-1 Navarro,J (1469)-Villca,J (2392) Asuncion CIT op 2023 (1)) 9.0-0-0 Qxf3 10.gxf3 Ne7 11.h4 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Rd8 13.Rxd8+ Kxd8 14.h5 f5 15.c4 Rf8 16.Rg1 Rf7 17.a4 a6 18.a5 g6 19.Rg5 Rf6 20.hxg6 Rxg6 21.c5 Ke8 22.Bd3 1-0 Carlsen,M (2863)-Ding,L (2791) Carlsen Tour Final chess24.com INT rapid 2020 (1. 21)]
8.Bd3 Nf6 9.Be3 White has an edge.
9...Be6N
[9...Ng4 10.Bxc5 Qxc5 11.Qg3 Be6 12.f4 0-0-0 13.f5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Ne3 15.Kd2 Nc4+ 16.Kc1 Nxb2 17.Kxb2 Qb4+ 18.Kc1 Qxc3 19.Rb1 Rd4 20.Rxb7 Qa1+ 21.Rb1 Qxa2 22.f6 g6 23.Qh3+ Rd7 24.Re1 19 Chapter C00-Games Chapter C00 Game Rhd8 25.Re4 c5 26.Bb5 c6 27.Bxc6 Kc7 28.Bxd7 Rxd7 29.Rb7+ Kxb7 30.Qxd7+ Kb6 31.Ra4 1-0 Jones,G (2660)-McShane,L (2644) Great Britain (ch-m/1-rapid) 133/118 2017]
10.Bxc5 Qxc5



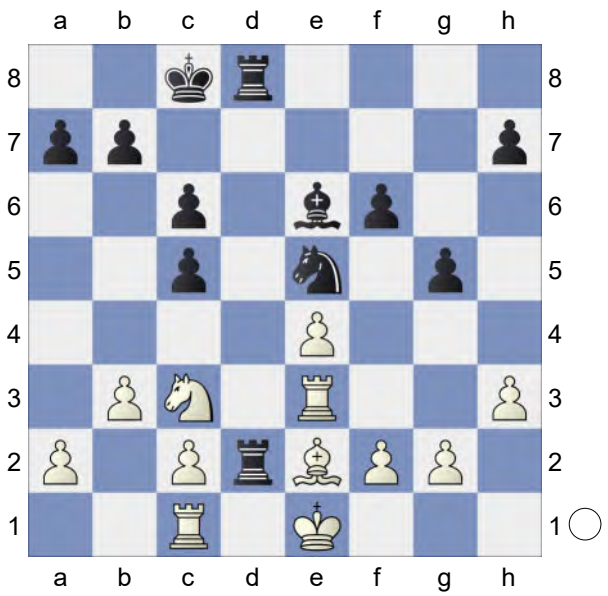
11.0-0 -0.48/18
[11.Qg3= -0.04/19 was preferrable.]
11...0-0-0∓ 12.Rfe1 Ng4 13.h3 Ne5 14.Qe3 Qxe3 15.Rxe3 g5

(Diagram)



16.Be2 Rd2 17.Rc1 Rhd8 18.b3 c5 19.Kf1 c6 20.Ke1 f6 -0.31/20

[20...R2d4 -0.69/20 is superior.]



21.Rd1 R2d4

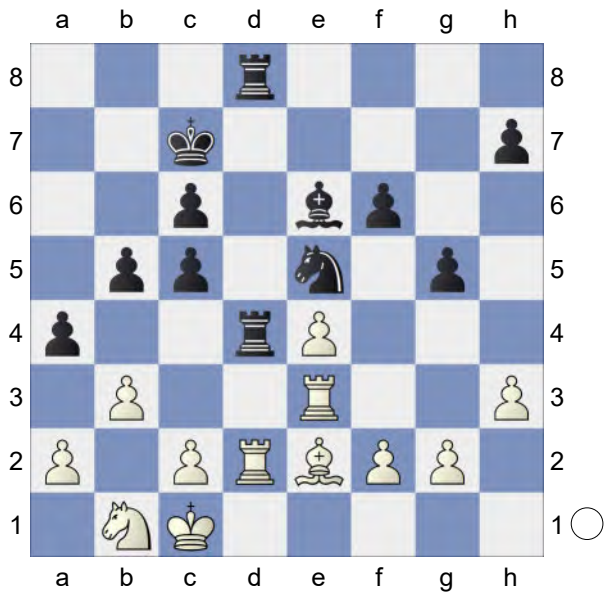
[And not 21...Rxc2 22.Rxd8+ Kxd8 23.Kd1±]

22.Nb1 Kc7 23.Rd2 a5 24.Kd1 -1.18/22

[⌓24.c3 -0.71/21 Rxd2 25.Nxd2]

24...b5 25.Kc1 a4

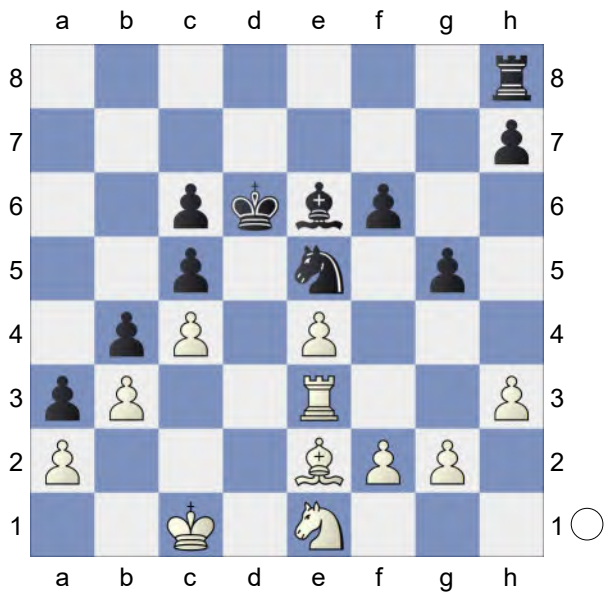
(Diagram)



26.c3 Rxd2 27.Nxd2 a3 28.c4 b4 -0.31/24

[28...Rb8∓ -0.79/20]

29.Nf3 Kd6 30.Ne1 Rh8

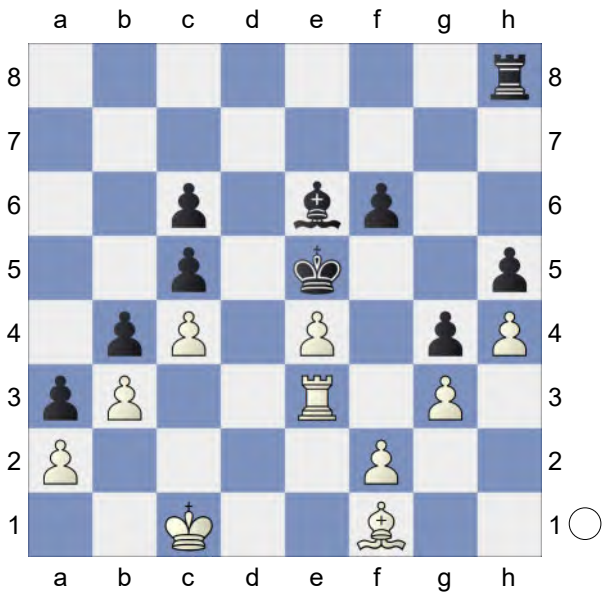


31.Bf1 h5 32.g3 Ng6 -0.01/23

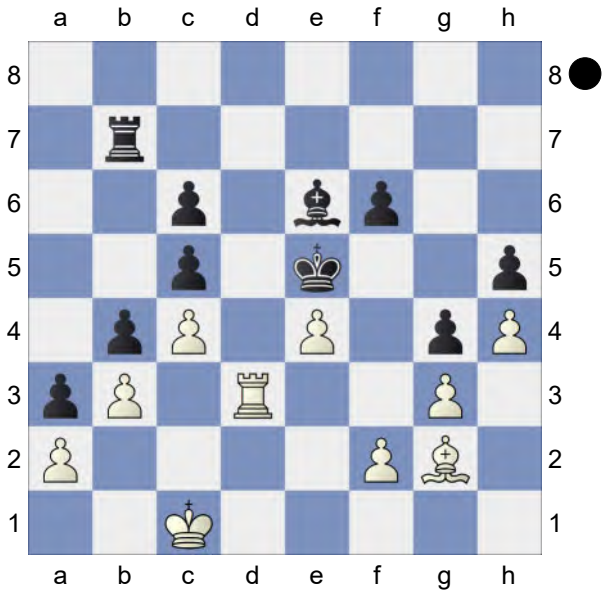
[Black should try 32...g4∓ -0.59/24 33.h4 Rd8]

33.Nd3= g4 34.h4 Ne5 35.Nxe5 Kxe5

(Diagram)

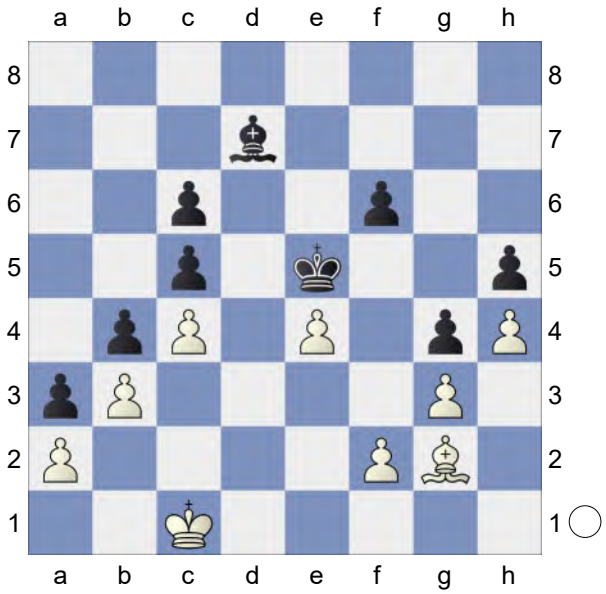


Endgame. KRB-KRB **36.Rd3! Rh7**
[36...Kxe4? 37.Re3+ Kd4 38.Rxe6+-]
37.Kd2 Rf7
[37...Kxe4? is the wrong capture. 38.Re3+ Kd4 39.Rxe6+-]
38.Bg2 Rb7 White must now prevent ... Bxc4! **39.Kc1** -0.85/28
[39.Ke2= -0.01/26 keeps the balance.]

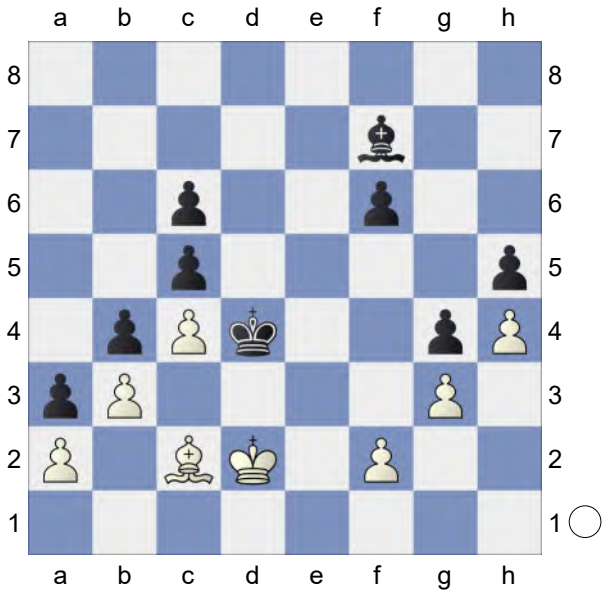


39...Rd7!∓ 40.Rxd7 -2.11/22
[40.Kc2∓ -0.64/28]

40...Bxd7∓

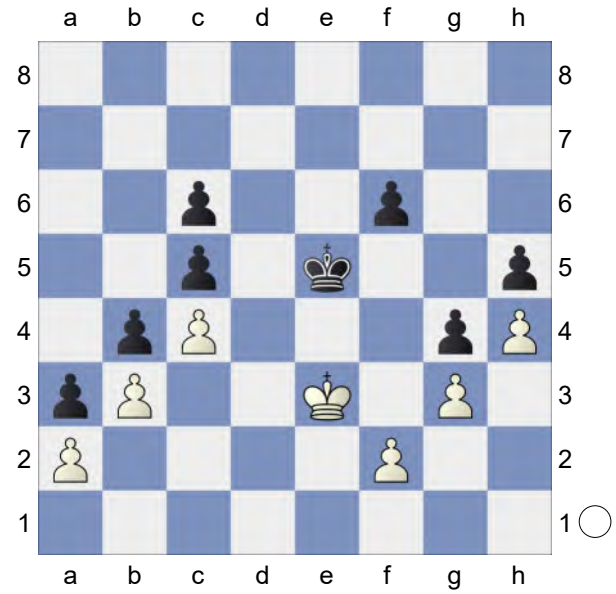


KB-KB **41.Kd2 Kd4 42.Bf1 Be8?** -0.27/29
[42...Kxe4-+ -2.78/31 aiming for ... Kf3. 43.Be2 f5]
43.e5? -4.50/31 **Kxe5?** -0.01/40
[Better is 43...fxe5-+ -4.50/31 44.Bd3 Bf7]
44.Bd3= The position is equal. **44...Kd4**
45.Bc2 Bf7

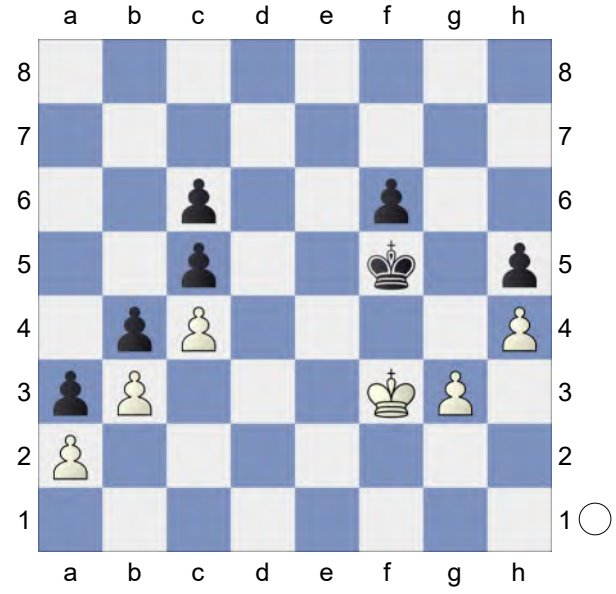


46.Bd3 Be6 47.Kc2 Ke5
[47...Bd7!?]
48.Kd2 Bf5 49.Bxf5 Kxf5 KP-KP

50.Ke3 Ke5

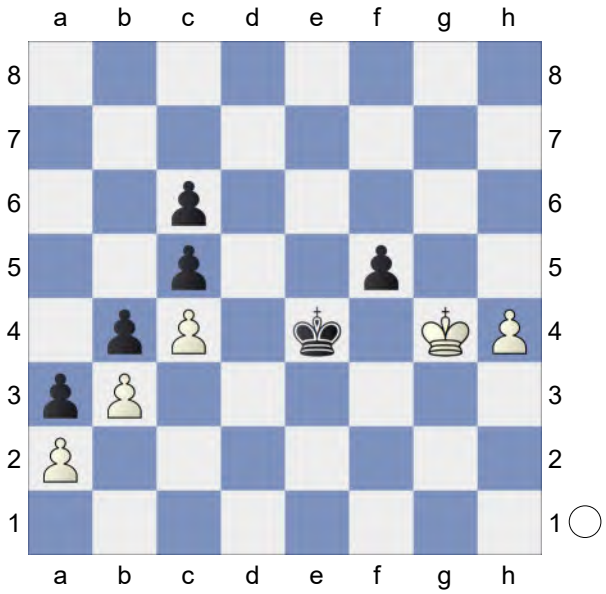


51.f4+ gxf3
[51...Kf5!?]
52.Kxf3 Kf5
[52...f5!?]

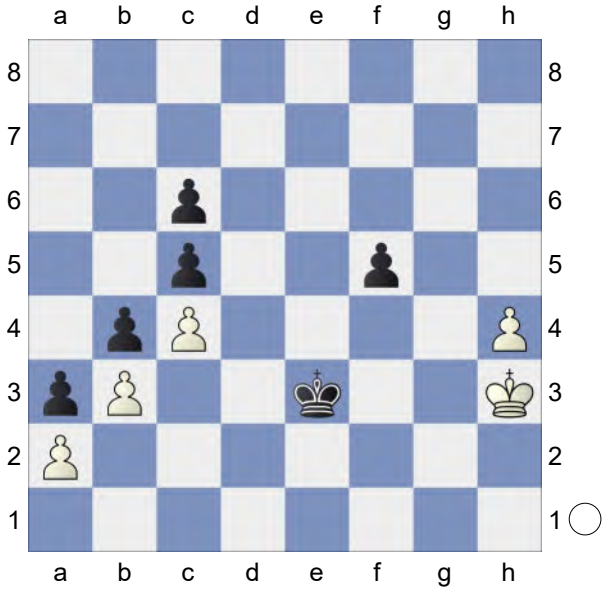


53.g4+! hxg4+ 54.Kg3 Ke4 55.Kxg4
Hoping for h5. **55...f5+**

(Diagram)



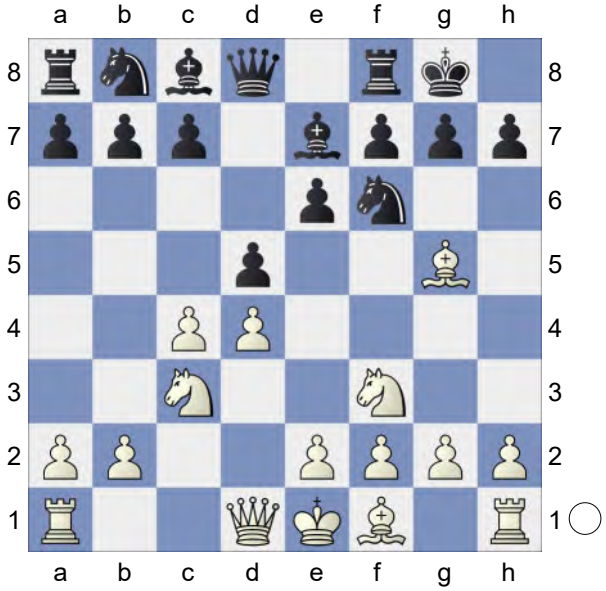
56.Kg3! Ke3 57.Kg2! Ke2
[57...Kf4!? 58.Kh3□ Ke3=]
58.Kg3 Ke3 59.Kg2! Kf4 (→ ...Kg4)
[59...Ke2!? 60.Kg3□ Ke3=]
60.Kh3 Ke3!



Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.24 (precise)
½-½

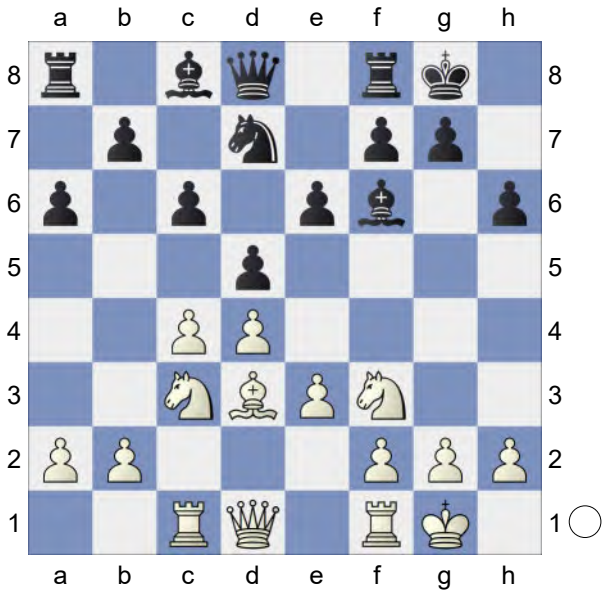
82 **D55**
□ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
■ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
Tata Steel Challengers (12.5) 01.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

D55: Queen's Gambit Declined: 4 Bg5 Be7: Lines without ...h6 and 6...h6 7 Bxf6 Piket,Je: 'Chess Informant' Piket,Je: 'Chess Informant' Piket,Je: 'Inf 45/516' Browne,W: 'Inf 45/515' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0**



6.e3 h6 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.Rc1 c6 9.Bd3 Nd7 10.0-0 a6

(Diagram)



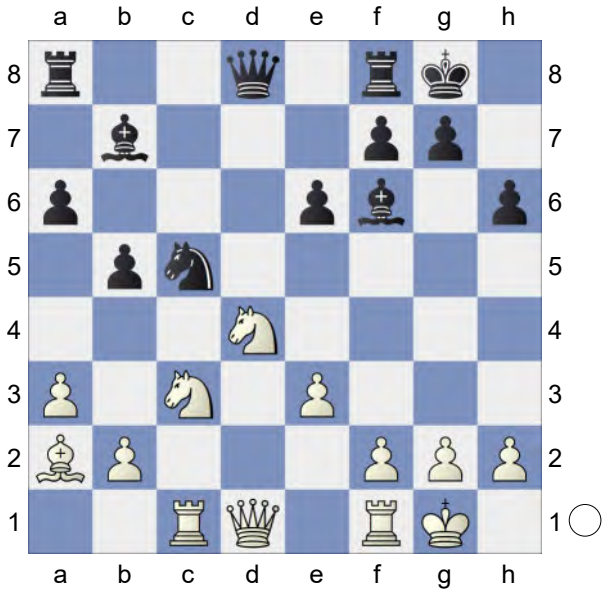
11.a3 -0.04/20
[11.Qc2± 0.35/18 deserves consideration. b5 12.b3 Bb7 13.Rfd1 Qe7 14.e4 dxc4 15.bxc4 e5 16.d5 Rab8 17.dxc6 Bxc6 18.cxb5 axb5 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Qa3 21.Qe2 Nc5 22.Bxb5 e4 23.Ne1 Rfd8 24.Rb1 Rb6 25.Bc4 Rxb1 26.Rxb1 ½-½ Piket,J (2470)-Karpov,A (2715) 45/516 Wijk aan Zee 1988]
[11.Qe2 dxc4 12.Bxc4 b5 13.Bd3 c5 14.dxc5 Nxc5 15.Bb1 b4 16.Qc2 g6 17.Ne2 Nd7 18.Rfd1 Bb7 19.Qa4 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Bxb2 21.Rc2 Nb6 22.Rxd8 Nxa4 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.Rc4 a5 25.Bc2 Nb6 0-1 Xu,Y-Sethuraman,S Asian Continental 13th Sharjah 2014 (4)]
11...dxc4N
[11...b5 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Bb1 Bb7 14.Ne2 g6 15.Nf4 Rc8 16.Qd3 Qe7 17.h4 h5 18.Nxg6 fxg6 19.Qxg6+ Qg7 20.Qxh5 Rfd8 21.Ng5 Nf8 22.Rxc8 Rxc8 23.f4 Bc6 24.Qf3 b4 25.Bd3 bxa3 26.bxa3 1-0 Browne,W-Remlinger,L 33/551 United States 1981 Bb7 27.Qh3 Rc6 28.h5 Qh6 29.Qg4 Bg7 30.f5 exf5 31.Bxf5 Rc7

32.Be6+ Nxe6 33.Nxe6 Rf7 34.Rxf7 Kxf7 35.Nxg7 Qxg7 36.Qd7+ Kf6 37.Qd6+ Kg5 38.h6 Qxh6 39.Qe7+ Kg4 40.Qd7+ Kh4 41.Qh3+ ½-½ Browne,W (2530)-Vaganian,R (2625) Saint John (open II) 45/515 1988 Kg5 42.Qg3+ Kh5 43.Qh2+ Kg6 44.Qd6+ Kh7 45.Qe7+ Qg7 46.Qh4+ Kg6 47.Qg3+ Kf6 48.Qe5+ Kf7 49.Qc7+ ½-½ Comas,F (2530)-8. ♕e2 ♗b4 9.0-0-0_77057 (2625) Deutschland 99/188 2007]

12.Bxc4 b5 13.Ba2 c5 The position is equal. **14.dxc5 Nxc5 15.Nd4**

[15.Nd5!? Bxb2 16.Rxc5 exd5 17.Bxd5=]

15...Bb7

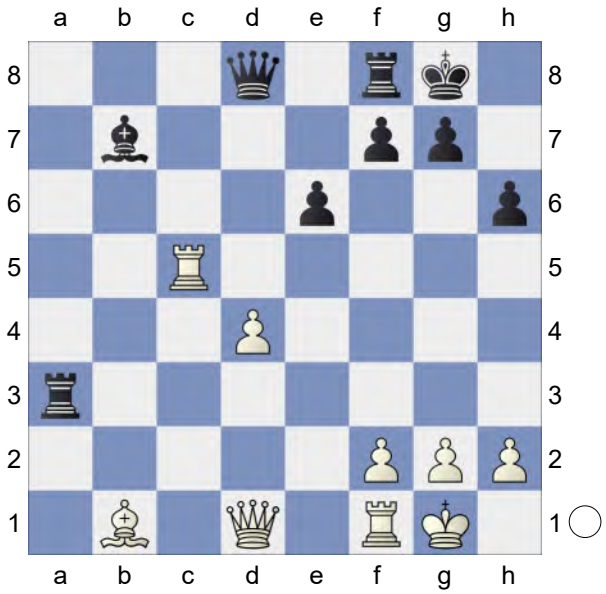


16.Ncxb5 Discovered Attack **16...axb5 17.Rxc5 b4 18.Bb1 Bxd4!**

[18...bxa3 19.Qc2 Re8 *(19...g6? 20.Nxe6* Double Attack *Qb6 21.Nxf8+-)* 20.Qh7+ Kf8 21.bxa3±]

19.exd4 bxa3 20.bxa3 Rxa3

(Diagram)



21.Qc2! g6→ Black mounts an attack. Active counter play!

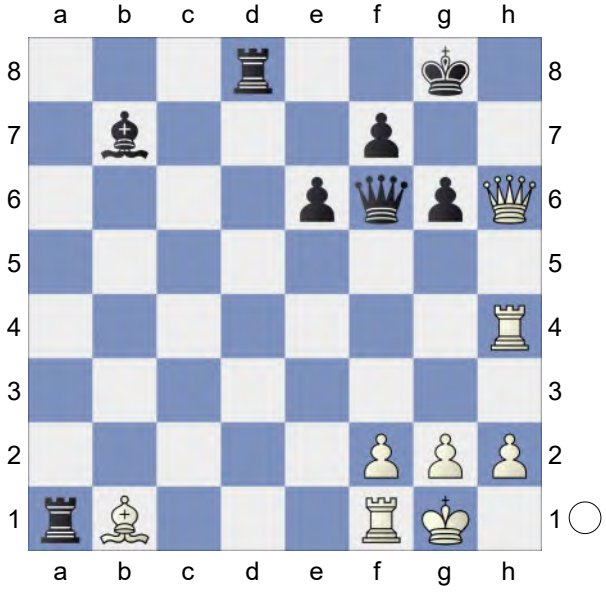
[21...Qxd4 22.Qh7#]

22.Qc1 Ra1 23.Qxh6 Qxd4 24.Rh5 -0.60/23 **Rd8** -0.12/22

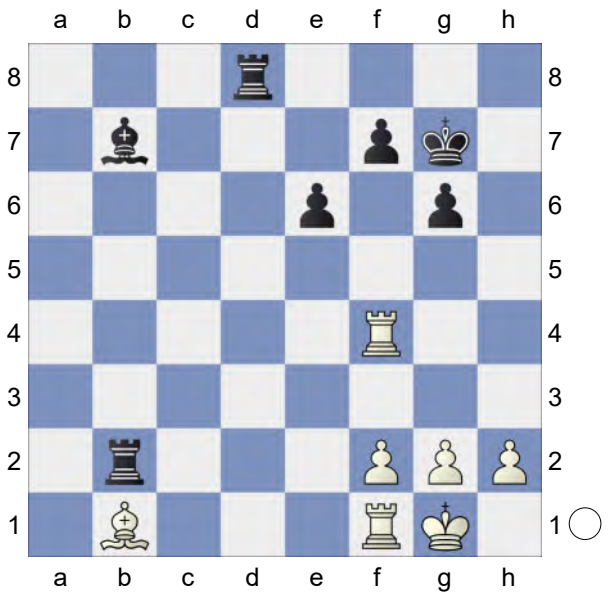
[24...gxh5 25.Qh7#]

[24...Qg7∓ -0.60/23 is more appropriate. 25.Qxg7+ Kxg7]

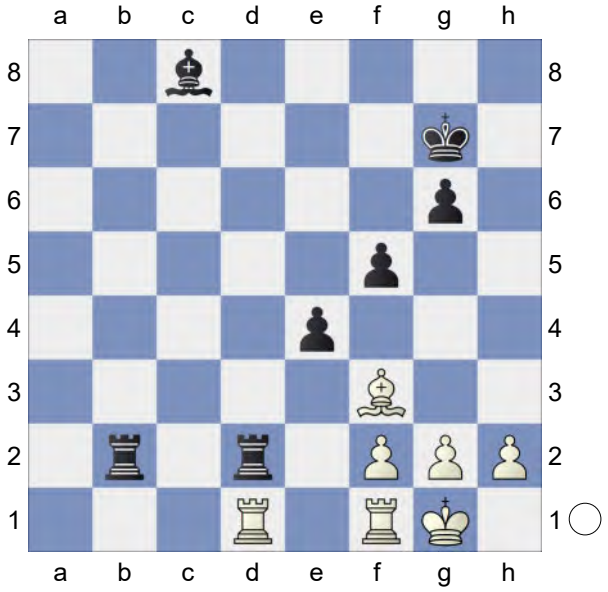
25.Rh4! Qf6



26.Qh7+ Kf8 Dancing on a razor blade. **27.Rf4** -0.62/22 **Qg7∓ 28.Qxg7+ Kxg7 29.Bd3** Wards off Ba6. Discovered Attack **29...Ra2 30.Bb1 Rb2**

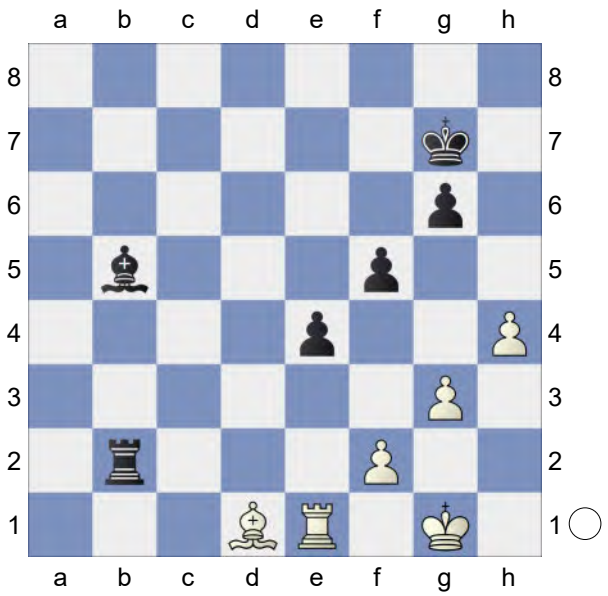


31.Ra4 Against Ba6 **31...Rdd2 32.Be4 Bc8 33.Raa1 f5 34.Bf3 e5** ...e4 would now be deadly. **35.Rad1** -0.86/21
[35.Rfd1∓ -0.44/20]
35...e4∓



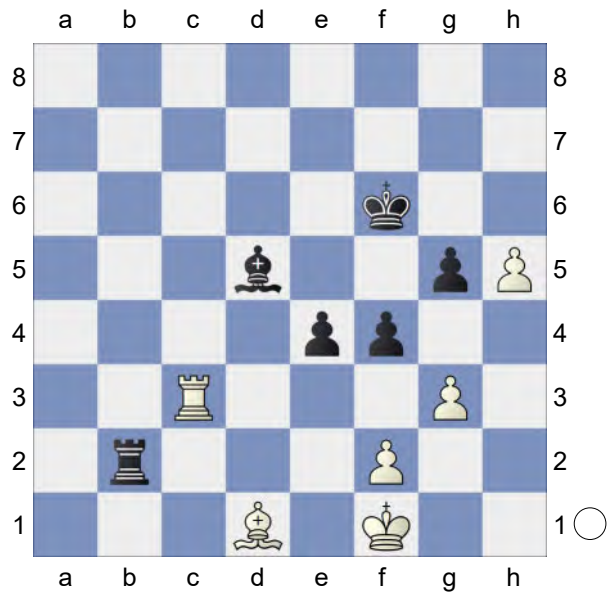
36.Rxd2 Rxd2 Endgame. KRB-KRB **37.Bd1 Bb7** aiming for ...e3! **38.Re1 Ba6** -0.48/21
[38...g5∓ -0.87/20]
39.h4∓ Bb5 40.g3 Rb2

(Diagram)

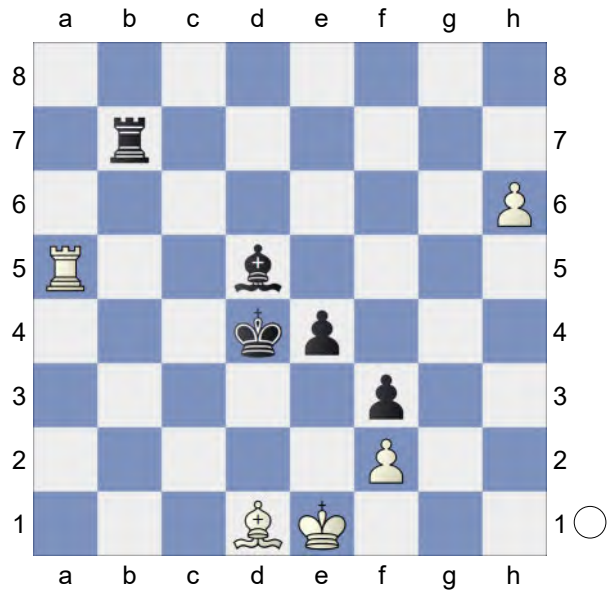


41.Kg2 -1.58/25
[41.f3∓ -0.38/22]
41...Kf6 -0.63/23
[41...Rb1!∓ -1.58/25 Hoping for ... Ba4. 42.f3 Ba4 43.Bxa4 Rxe1 44.fxe4 Re2+ *(44...Rxe4 45.Bd1∓; 44...fxe4 45.Kf2-+)* 45.Kf3 Rxe4]
42.h5 -1.45/23
[42.Re3∓ -0.63/23]
42...Bc6 -0.41/23
[42...Rd2∓ -1.45/23 And now ...e3! would win. 43.Kg1 g5]
43.Re3 g5 -0.01/22
[43...gxh5∓ -0.53/19 44.Bxh5 Kg5]
44.Rc3= Bd5 Strongly threatening ... e3+. **45.Kf1 f4**

(Diagram)

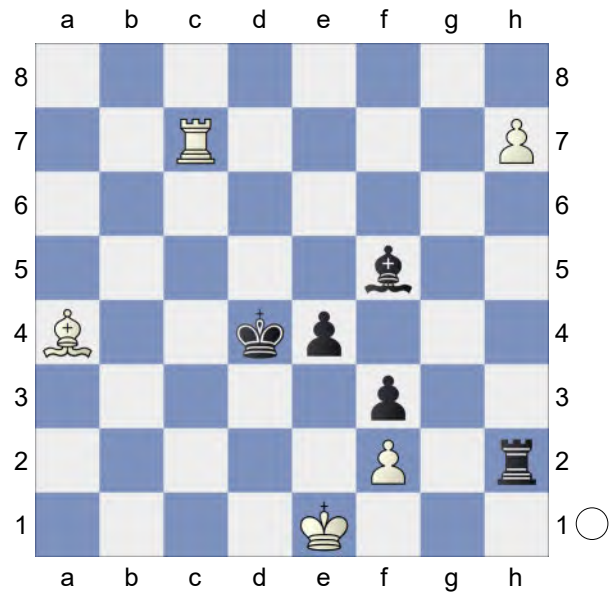


46.gxf4 gxf4 47.Ke1 Prevents e3. **47...f3 48.Rc5 Ke5 49.h6 Rb7 50.Ra5 Kd4!**

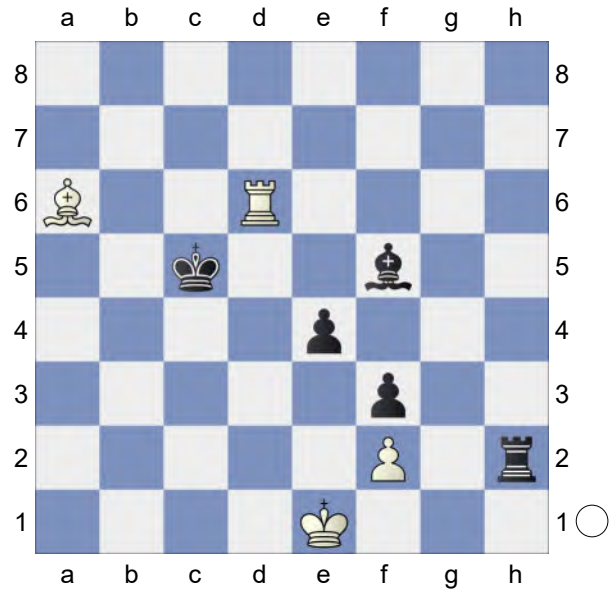


51.Bc2 Rb6 52.h7 Rh6 53.Ra7 Rh2
[53...Kc3!? 54.Rc7+□ Bc4 55.Rxc4+ *(55.Bxe4? Rh1#)* 55...Kxc4 56.Bxe4 Kd4 57.Bxf3 Rxh7=]
54.Rc7 -0.63/25
[54.Re7= 0.00/26]
54...Be6∓ 55.Ba4 -1.00/24
[55.Ra7∓ -0.60/26 feels stronger.]
55...Bf5∓

(Diagram)

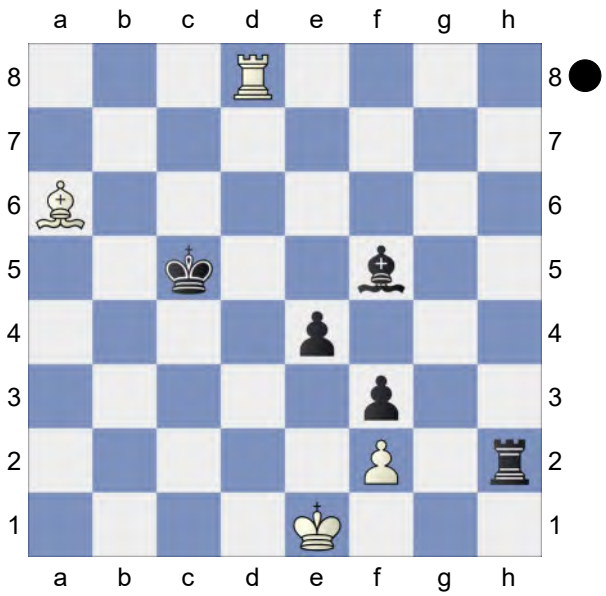


56.Bb5 Bxh7 White must now prevent ... Bg8. **57.Rd7+ Kc5** -0.65/25
[57...Ke5∓ -1.19/26 58.Re7+ Kf6]
58.Ba6!∓ Bf5 59.Rd8 Kb6 0.00/24
[59...Bg6∓ -1.15/25]
60.Rd6+ Kc5

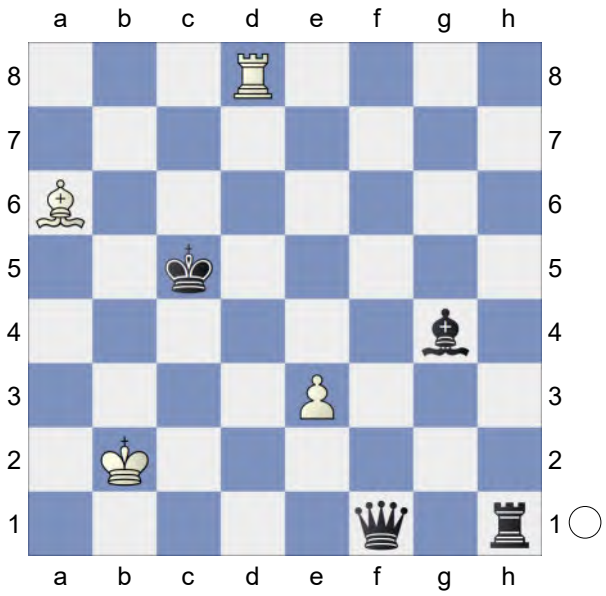


61.Rd8

(Diagram)

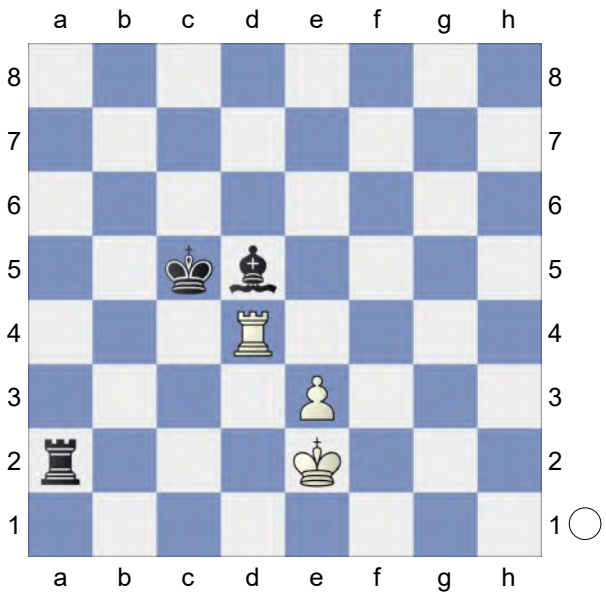


e3! 62.fxe3 f2+ 63.Kd1 Bg4+ 64.Kc1 Rh1+ 65.Kb2 f1Q

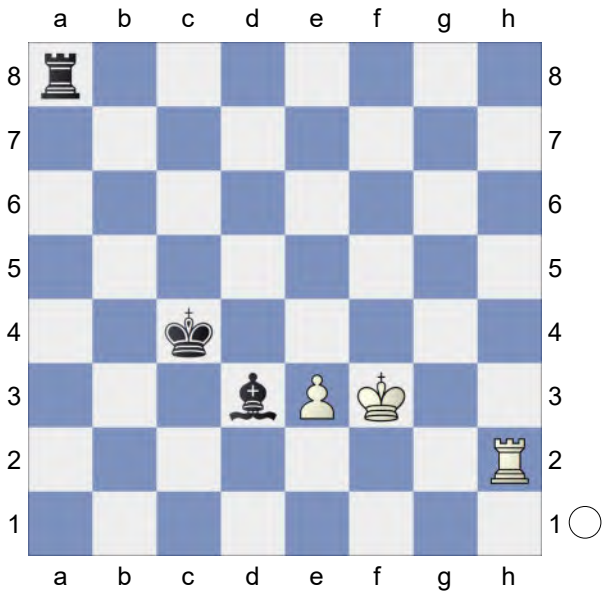


Repels Rf8 **66.Bxf1 Rxf1** KRB-KR **67.Rd4 Be6 68.Kc3 Ra1 69.Kd3 Bd5 70.Ke2 Ra2+**

(Diagram)

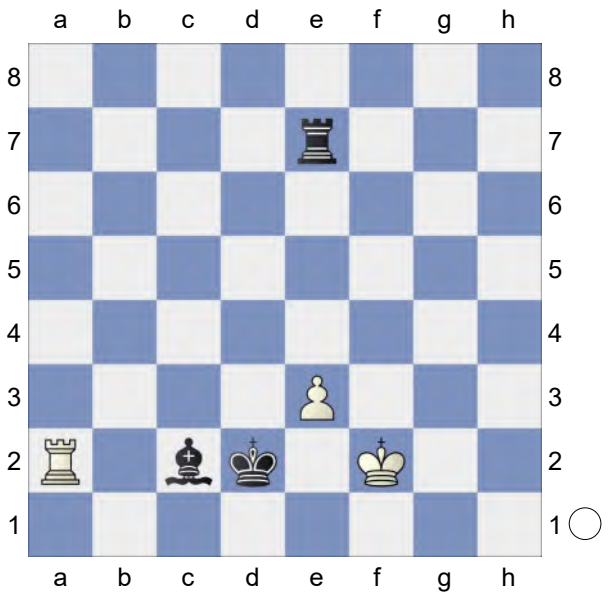


71.Rd2 Bc4+ 72.Ke1 Ra3 73.Kf2! Bd3 74.Kf3 Kc4 75.Rh2 Ra8



76.Rh4+ Kc3 77.Rd4 Kd2 78.Kf2 Re8 79.Ra4 Re7 80.Ra2+ Bc2

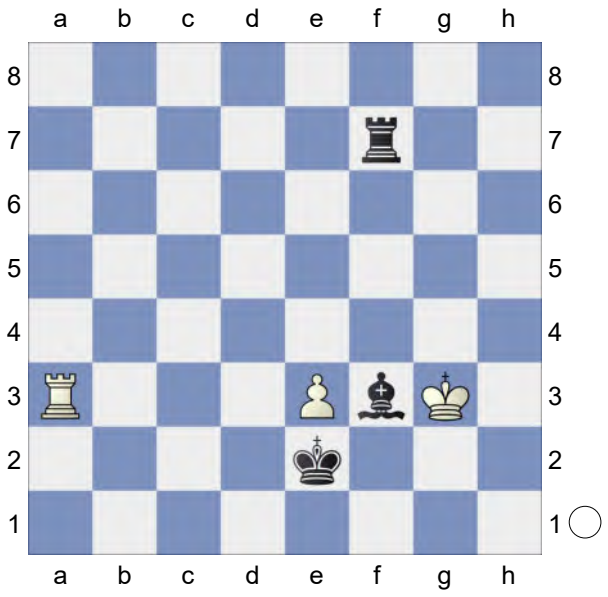
(Diagram)



81.Rb2 Rf7+ 82.Kg3 Kd3 83.Ra2 Bd1 84.Ra8 Bf3

[84...Kxe3 85.Re8+ Kd2 86.Re4-+]

85.Ra3+ Ke2

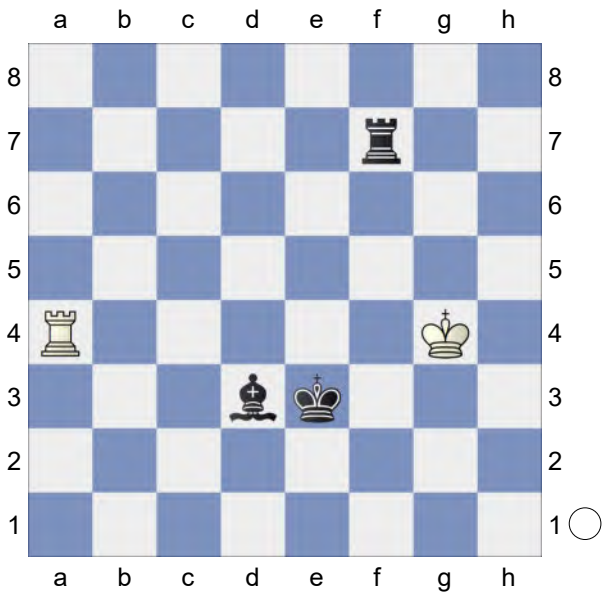


86.Rb3 Be4 87.Kg4 Bd3 88.e4 Ke3

[88...Bxe4? 89.Kg5-+]

89.Ra3 Kxe4 90.Ra4+ Ke3

(Diagram)



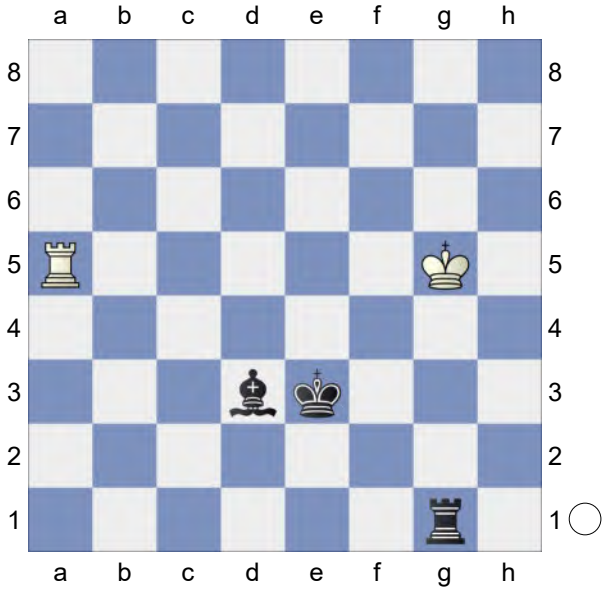
91.Kg5! Rf5+ 92.Kg4 -1.11/31

[92.Kh6∓ -0.48/31]

92...Rb5 93.Ra3 Rb6 94.Ra5 Rb1 -0.47/28

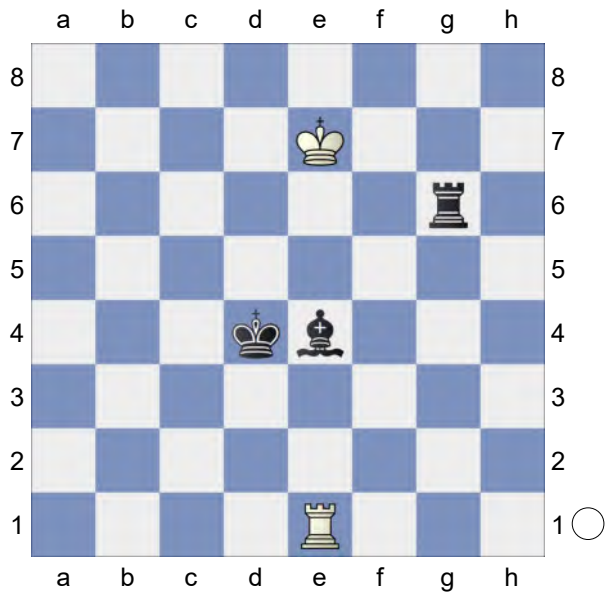
[94...Rg6+∓ -0.86/28 95.Rg5 Rh6]

95.Kg5! Rg1+

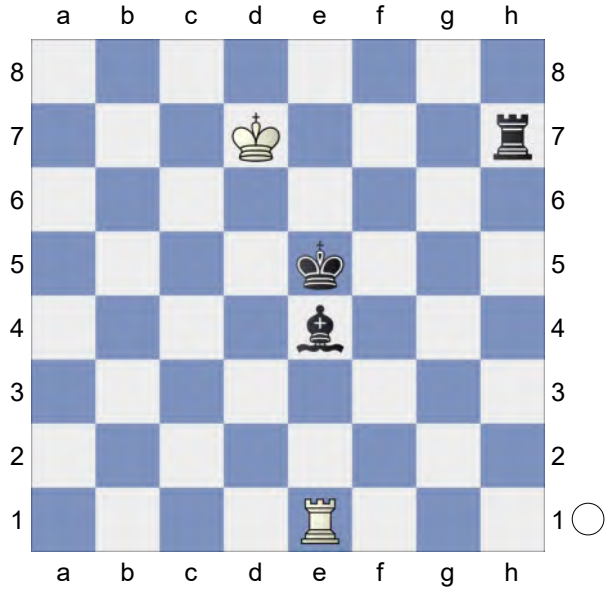


96.Kf6 Rg6+ 97.Ke7 Kd4 98.Ra4+ Bc4 99.Ra1 Bd5 100.Re1 Be4

(Diagram)

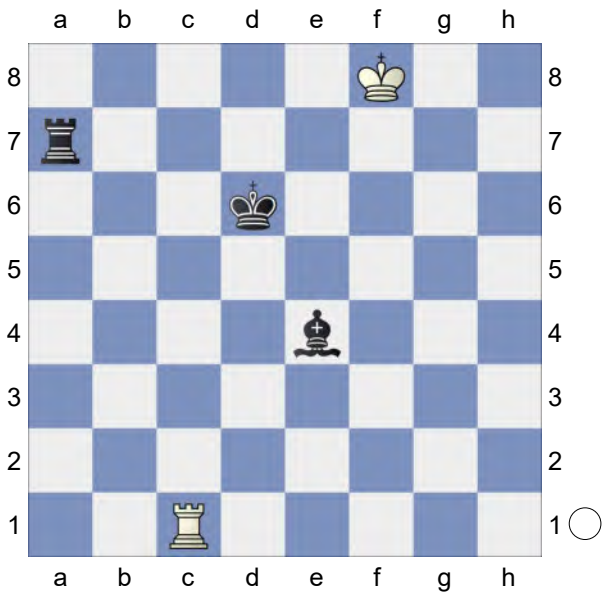


101.Kd7 Ke5 102.Kc7 Rc6+ 103.Kd7 Rb6
[103...Rd6+ 104.Ke7 Re6+ 105.Kd7-+]
104.Rc1 Rh6 105.Re1 Rh7+

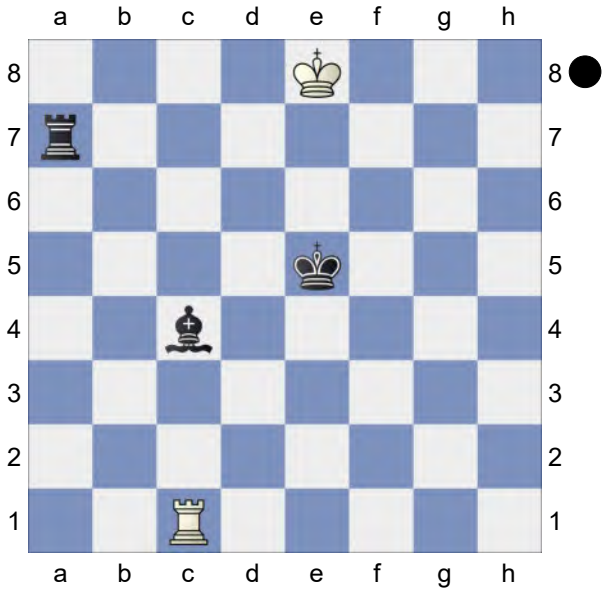


106.Kc8 Kd5
[106...Rh8+? 107.Kc7-+]
107.Kd8 Ra7 ...Kd6! is the strong threat. **108.Ke8 Bg6+ 109.Kf8** -1.05/28
[Better is 109.Kd8∓ -0.35/30]
109...Kd6!∓ 110.Rc1 Be4

(Diagram)

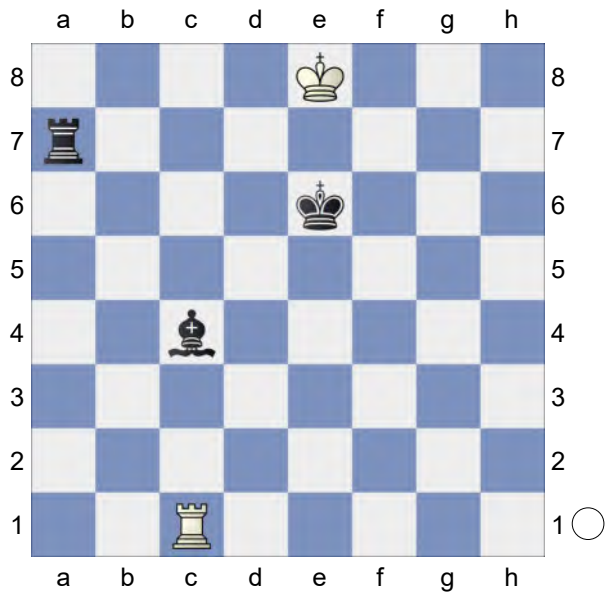


111.Re1 Bf5 112.Rc1 Be6 -0.41/30
[112...Rh7!∓ -1.13/27 113.Kg8 Re7]
113.Rf1 -1.09/28
[113.Rb1!∓ -0.41/30]
113...Ke5 114.Ke8 Bc4 -0.34/30
[114...Rh7∓ -1.03/30 115.Rf2 Rc7]
115.Rc1 -1.19/31
[115.Rb1!∓ -0.34/30]

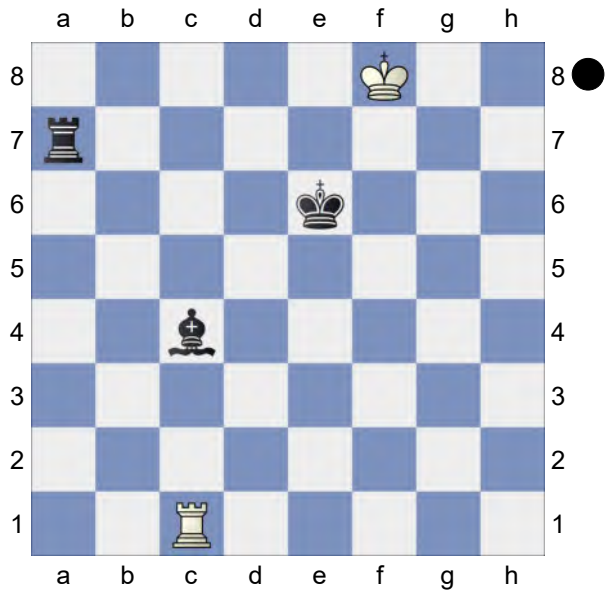


115...Ke6 -0.33/29

(Diagram)

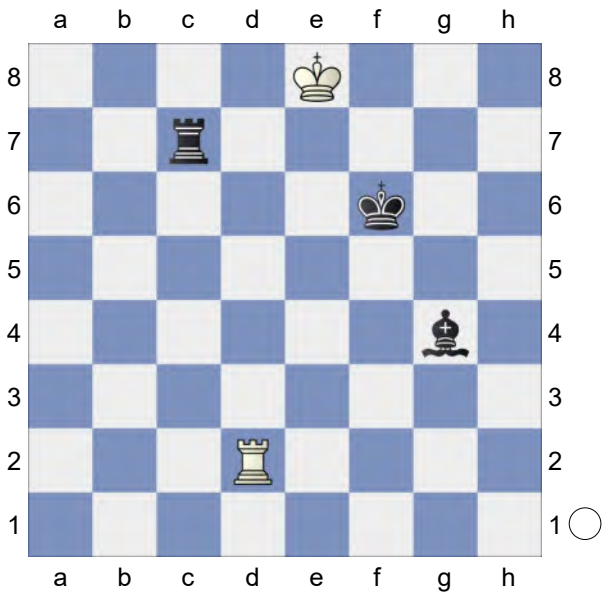


116.Kf8 -1.34/27
[White should try 116.Kd8∓ -0.33/29]

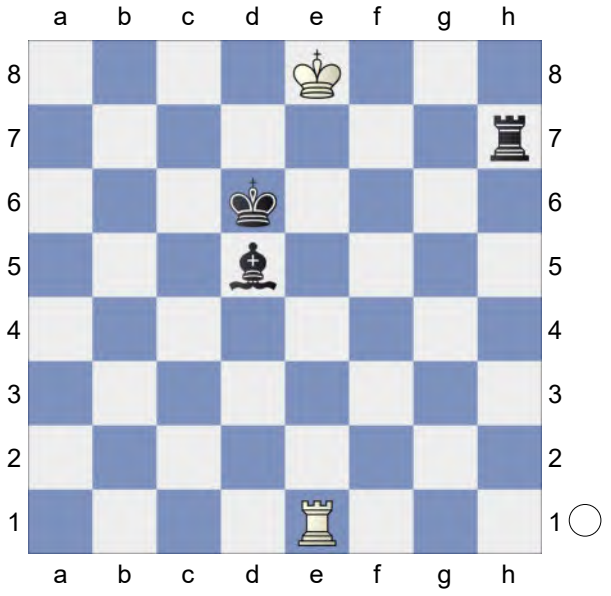


116...Kf6 -0.40/24 **117.Ke8∓ Be6 118.Rf1+ Bf5 119.Rd1! Rc7 120.Rd2 Bg4**

(Diagram)

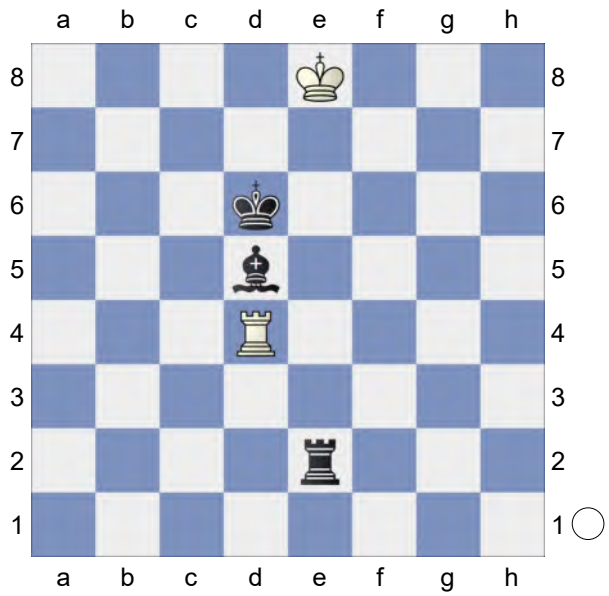


121.Rd3 Be6 122.Rd1 Rh7 123.Kd8! Ke5 124.Ke8 Bd5 125.Re1+ Kd6



126.Kf8? -#13/21
[126.Rf1= -0.13/21]
126...Rf7+ 127.Ke8 Rf3 128.Rd1? -#11/24
[128.Kd8= -0.13/19]
128...Rf2 129.Rd4 Re2+

(Diagram)

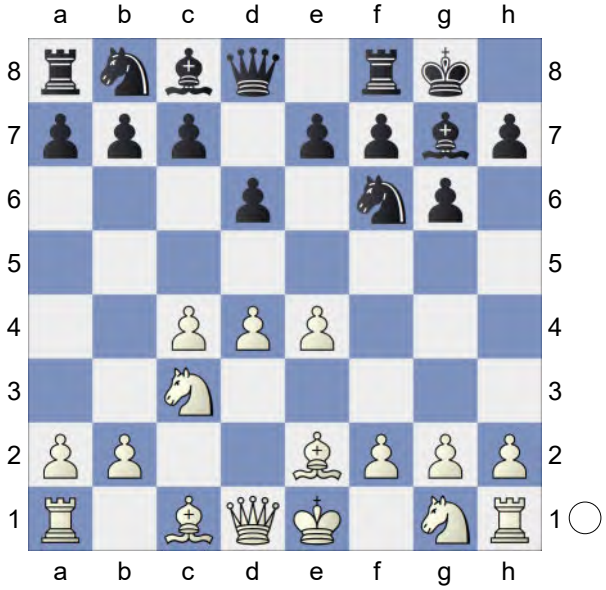


Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)

0-1

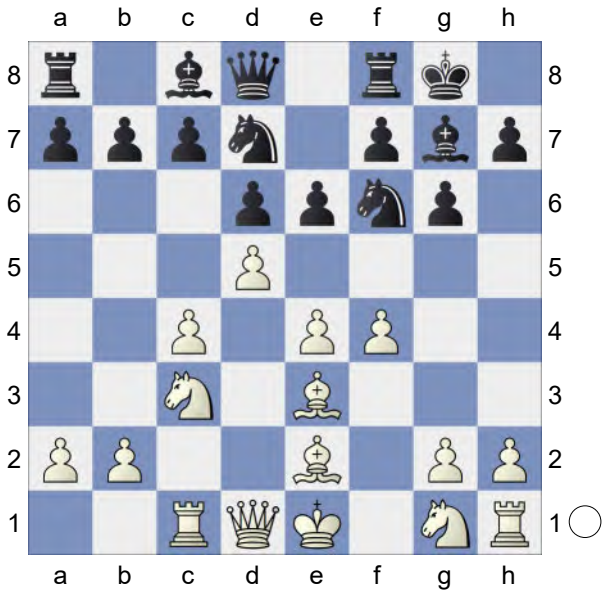
83 **E73**
□ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
■ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
Tata Steel Challengers (12.6) 01.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

E73: King's Indian: Averbakh Variation without 6...c5 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0**

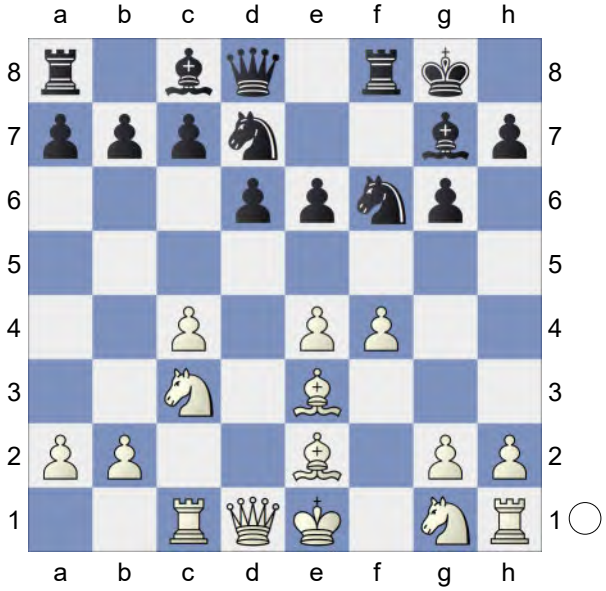


6.Be3 Nc6 7.d5 Ne5 8.Rc1 e6 0.76/19
[8...c6= 0.19/19]
9.f4± Ned7

(Diagram)



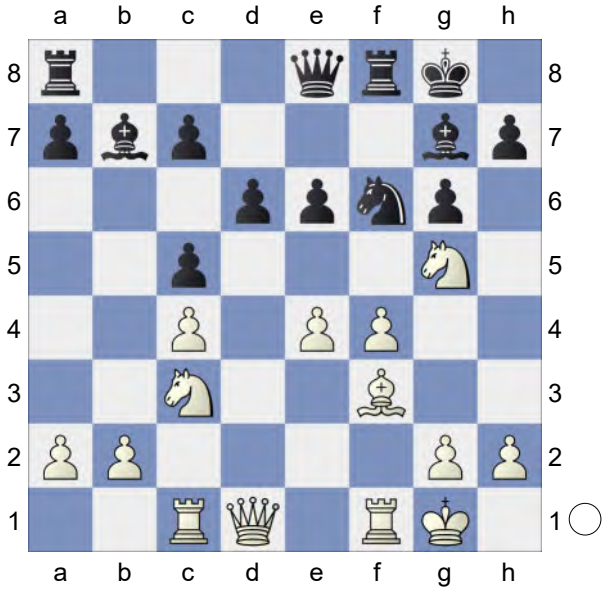
White is better. **10.dxe6 fxe6**



11.Nh3 b6 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Bf3N
[13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Rce1 a6 15.Bf3 Rab8 16.Ng5 h6 17.Nh3 Qf7 18.e5 Ne8 19.Bg4 dxe5 20.fxe5 Qe7 21.Nf4 Nxe5 22.Nxg6 Nxg6 23.Qxg6 Rf6 24.Rxf6 Qxf6 25.Bxe6+ Kh8 26.Qxf6 Nxf6 27.Bf5 Ne8 1-0 Rosenstielke,M (2690)-Koeffner,C (2512) 53/426_137815 München 1991 28.Ne4 Bxe4 29.Bxe4 Nd6 30.Bd3 Re8 31.b3 Bc3 32.Re2 Kg7 33.Kf1 a5 34.Bf4 Rf8 35.g3 Bf6 36.Kg2

Rd8 37.Re3 Rd7 38.h4 Rf7 39.Re6 Nb7 40.Rc6 Nc5 41.Bc2 Na6 42.Be4 Re7 1-0 Predke,A (2690)-Nasuta,G (2512) tornelo.com (Int.-m/2) 149/190 2021]

13...Nc5 14.Bxc5 bxc5 15.Ng5 Qe8



16.e5 Discovered Attack **16...Bxf3**

17.Qxf3

[17.gxf3? Nh5 18.exd6 Rd8-+ *(18...Nxf4 19.dxc7 Qe7 20.Nge4±)*]

17...dxe5 0.84/21

[17...Nh5± 0.41/21 deserves consideration.]

18.Qh3 0.30/23 White is much more active.

[18.fxe5 h6 19.exf6 Bxf6∓]

[18.Nb5± 0.84/21 Qe7 19.Qc6 *(19.fxe5 Nd7∓)*]

18...exf4 0.93/21

[18...Nh5= 0.30/23]

19.Rce1 0.46/21

[19.Rxf4 Qe7±]

[White should play 19.Nxe6± 0.93/21 Rce1! is the strong threat. Rf7 20.Rce1 *(20.Rxf4 Bh6=)*]

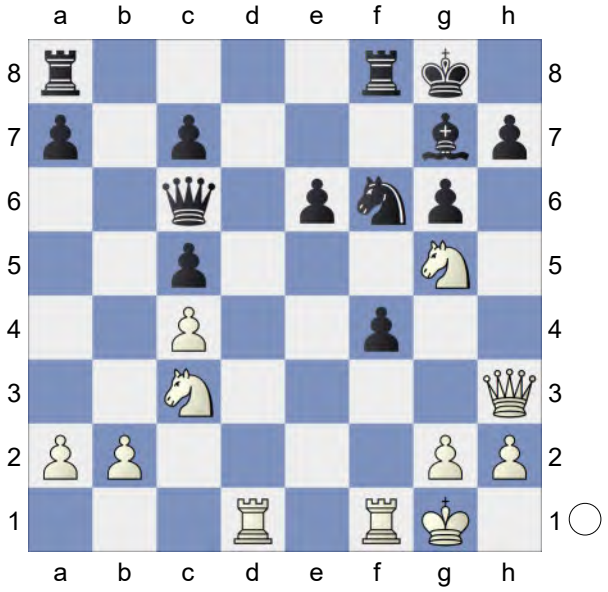
19...Qd7± 20.Rd1

[20.Rxe6 Qd4+ 21.Rf2 Rae8= *(21...Qxc4 22.Re4+-)*]

[20.Qxe6+ simplifies Qxe6 21.Nxe6 Rf7 22.Nxg7 Kxg7 23.Rxf4 Re8 24.Ref1]

20...Qc6 1.13/23

[Black should try 20...Qe7± 0.53/21]



21.Rxf4±

[21.Qxe6+ Qxe6 22.Nxe6 Ng4+-]

[21.Nxe6 Rfe8 22.Nxg7 *(22.Nxf4 Ne4=)* 22...Kxg7±]

21...Nh5 22.Rxf8+

[22.Qxe6+ Qxe6 23.Rxf8+ Bxf8]

22...Rxf8 23.Qxe6+

[23.Nxe6?! Nf4 24.Nxf4 Rxf4=]

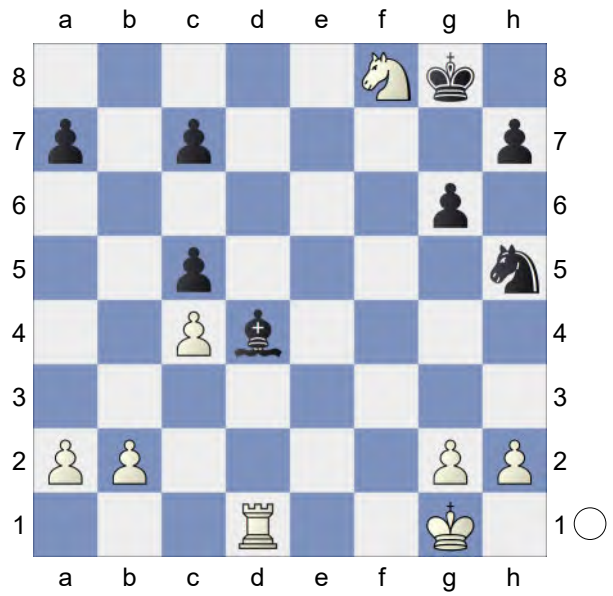
23...Qxe6 24.Nxe6 Bxc3 2.01/22

25.Nxf8+-

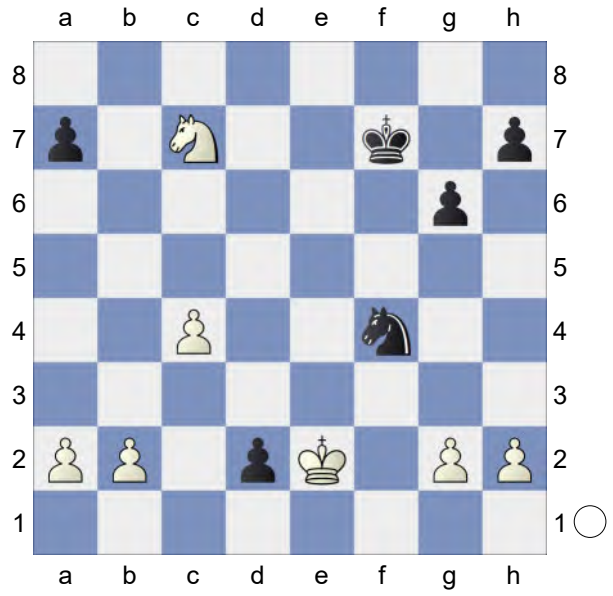
[25.bxc3 Re8 26.Nxc5 *(26.Nxc7 Re4±)* 26...Nf6±]

25...Bd4+

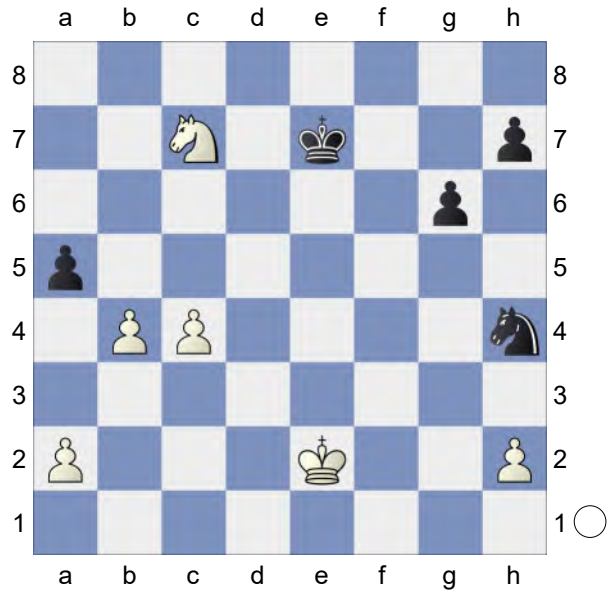
(Diagram)



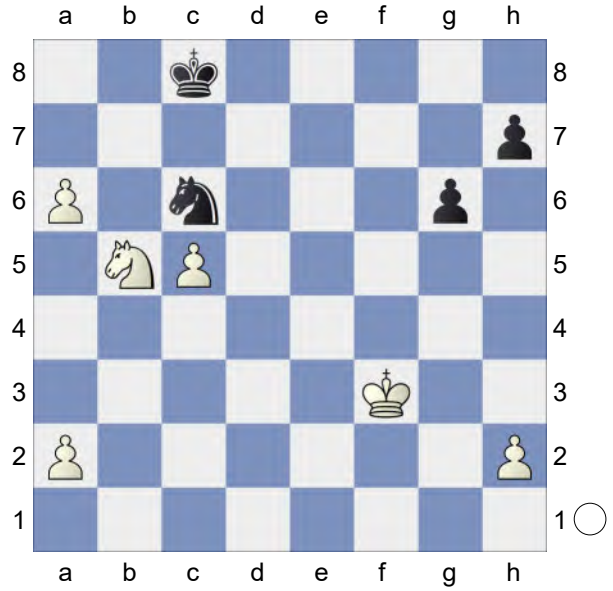
26.Rxd4! **cxd4** Endgame. KN-KN
27.Ne6 **d3** 2.97/24
[27...Kf7 1.65/22 is a better defense. 28.Nxd4 *(28.Nxc7 Nf4=)* 28...Ke8]
28.Kf2 aiming for Ke3!
[28.Nxc7? too greedy. d2 29.Kf2 d1Q-+ *(29...d1R? 30.Ke3-+)*]
28...Kf7 **29.Nxc7** **d2?** 4.42/21
[29...Nf4 2.51/22 keeps fighting. 30.Ke3 Nxg2+ 31.Kxd3 g5]
30.Ke2 **Nf4+**



31.Kxd2 **Nxg2** **32.b4** **Nh4** **33.Ke2**
Prevents Nf3. **33...Ke7** **34.Nb5** **a6**
35.Nc7 **a5**

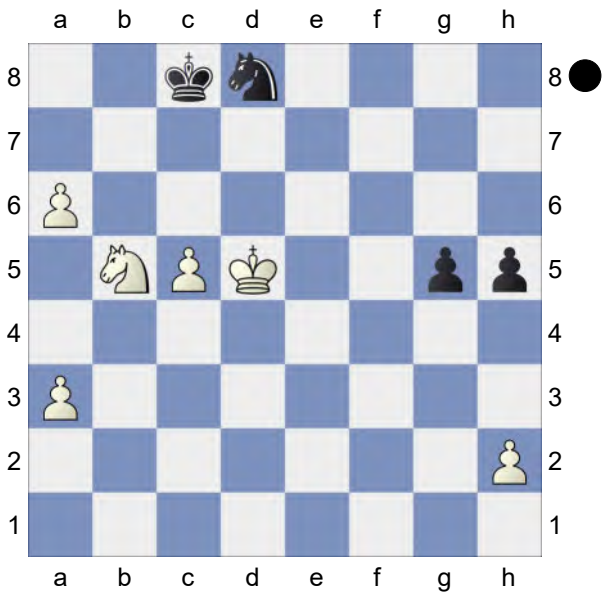


36.bxa5 **Kd7** **37.Nb5** **Nf5** **38.a6**
Black must now prevent a7. **38...Kc8**
39.c5 White wants to mate with c6.
39...Ne7 **40.Kf3** **Nc6**



41.a3 **h5** **42.Kf4** **Nd8** **43.Ke5** 19.95/21
[⌓43.Ke4 #18/22 Nc6 44.Kd5 Ne7+ 45.Kd6 Nf5+ 46.Ke6 Ng7+ 47.Kf7 Kd7 48.Kxg7]
43...g5 **44.Kd5**

(Diagram)

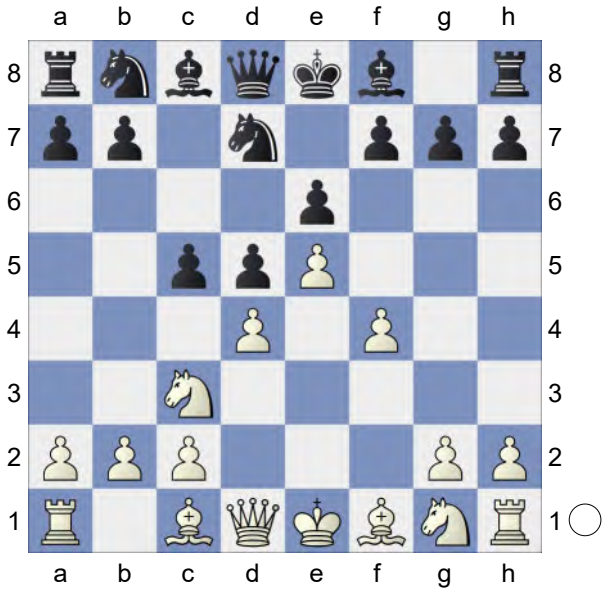


Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.41

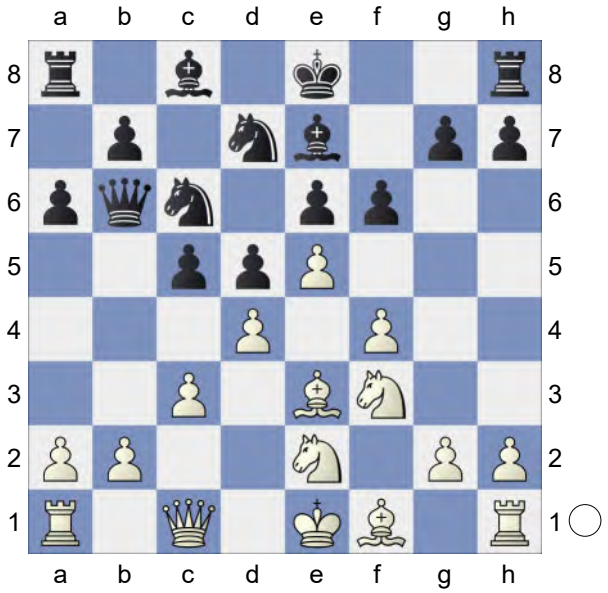
1-0

84 **C11**
□ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
■ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
Tata Steel Challengers (12.7) 01.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C11: French: Classical System: 4 e5 and 4 Bg5 dxe4 **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5**

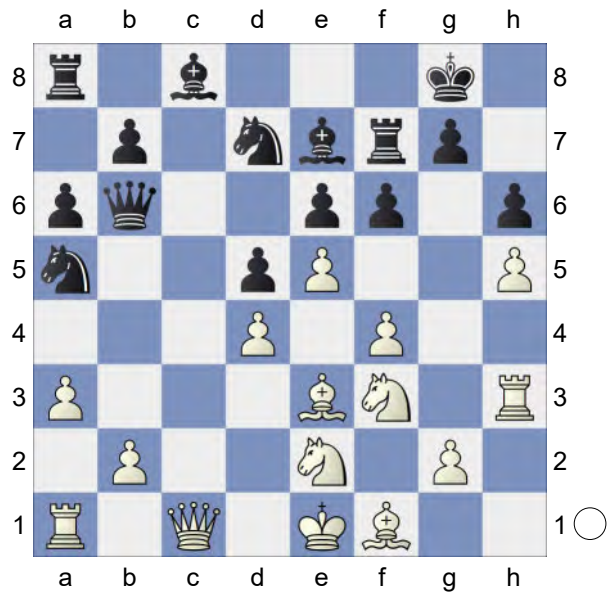


6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Ne2 Qb6 9.Qc1 Be7 10.c3 White has an edge. **10...f6**

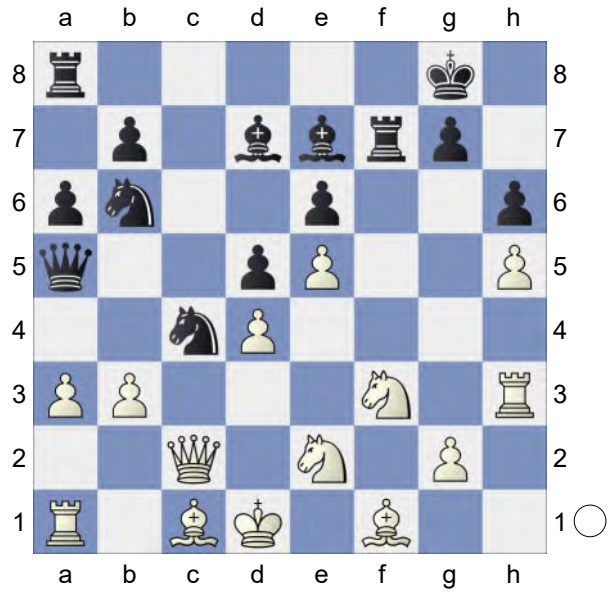


11.h4 0.08/18
[11.g3± 0.46/20 feels stronger.]
11...0-0= 12.h5 h6 13.Rh3 Rf7
[13...Qa5 14.Kf2 cxd4 15.cxd4 fxe5 16.fxe5 Ndxe5 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Kg1 Ng4 19.Rg3 e5 20.Rxg4 Bxg4 21.Nxe5 Bxh5 22.Nf4 Rac8 23.Qe1 Qxe1 24.Rxe1 Bb4 25.Rb1 d4 26.Bc1 Bf7 27.Nxf7 Rxf7 28.g3 Aronian,L (2781) -Bluebaum,M (2670) chess24.com (Internet-rapid) 2021 Chess Informant 149 [Perunovic, Milos] 0-1 (79)]
14.a3N
[14.Qc2 cxd4 15.Bxd4 Qc7 16.exf6 Nxd4 17.Nexd4 Rxf6 18.f5 Nc5 19.Nh4 Rf7 20.Ndf3 e5 21.g4 e4 22.Nd4 Qf4 23.Ng6 Qxg4 24.Qh2 Nd3+ 25.Bxd3 exd3 26.Re3 d2+ 27.Qxd2 Bh4+ 28.Nxh4 Qxh4+ Ivic,V (2599)-Di Berardino,D (2472) Budapest 2024 ½-½ (65)]
[14.Kf2 fxe5 15.fxe5 Bg5 16.Kg1 Bxe3+ 17.Qxe3 Qxb2 18.Re1 Ne7 19.Nh4 Nf8 20.Rg3 Kh8 21.Nf4 cxd4 22.cxd4 Bd7 23.Nfg6+ Nfxg6 24.Nxg6+ Kg8 25.Nxe7+ Rxe7 26.Bd3 Kh8 27.Rb1 Qxa2 28.Rxb7 Qa4 Xu,Y (2527)-Xu,Y (2554) Xinghua CHN 2021 CBM 217 [Grigoriants,Sergey] 1-0 (53)]
14...cxd4 15.cxd4 Na5

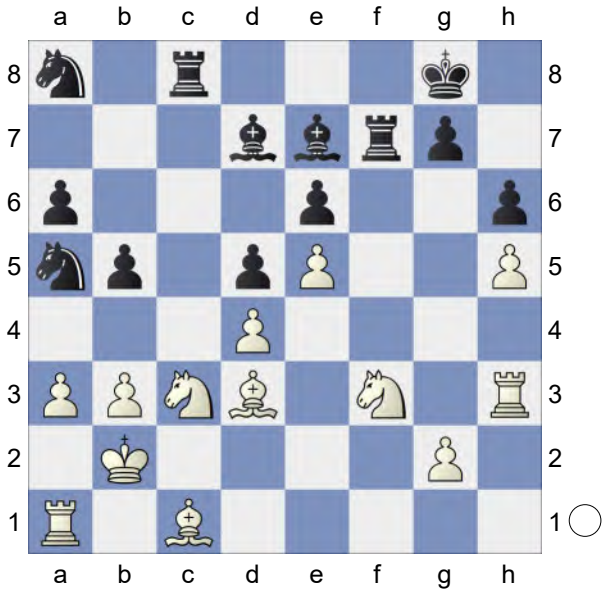
(Diagram)



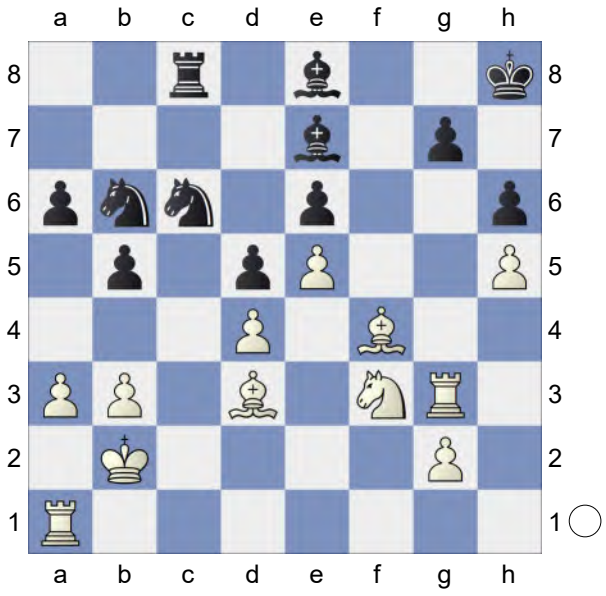
16.Qc2 Nc4 17.Bc1 Qa5+ 18.Kd1 fxe5 19.fxe5 -0.04/19
[19.dxe5∓ -0.37/22 Bc5 20.Nh2]
19...Ndb6 0.32/23
[19...Qb6= -0.04/19 was preferrable.]
20.b3± Dancing on a razor blade.
20...Bd7!



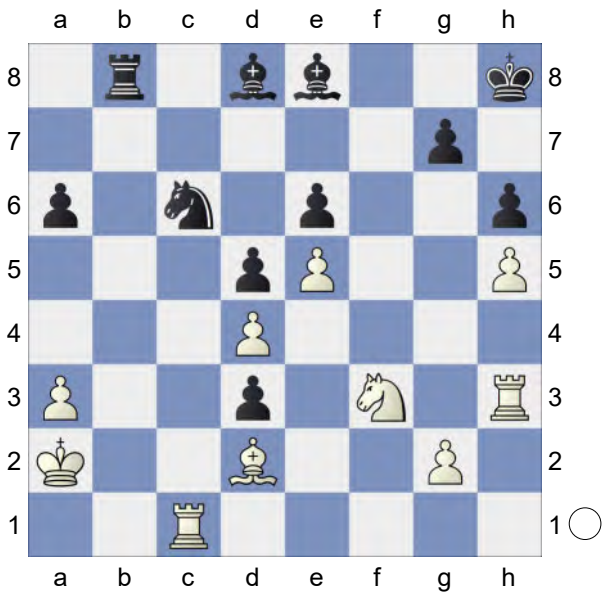
Strongly threatening ...Rc8! **21.Qc3**
[21.bxc4? Ba4 22.c5 Bxc2+-+]
21...Qxc3 22.Nxc3 Na5 23.Kc2 Rc8 24.Kb2 Na8 0.87/23
[24...Nc6± 0.51/22 is superior.]
25.Bd3± b5 1.24/24
[⌓25...Rc6 0.79/21]



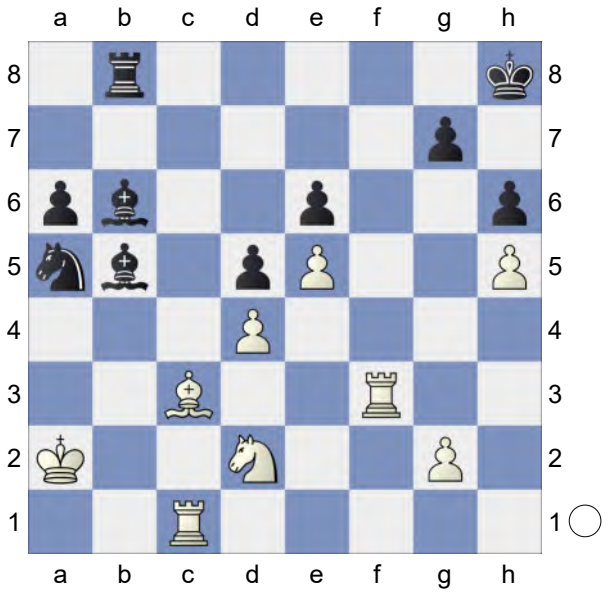
26.Ne2 Be8 2.19/21
[26...Nc6± 1.15/21]
27.Bd2 Nc6 28.Rg3 Kh8 29.Nf4 Rxf4 30.Bxf4 Nb6



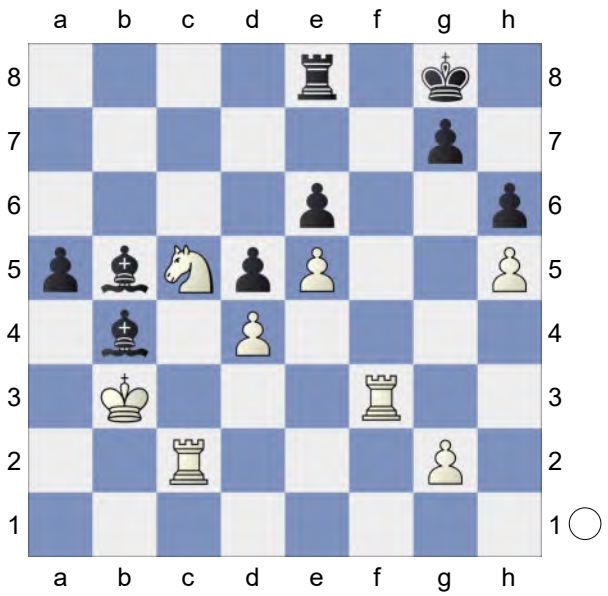
31.Rc1 Rb8 32.Rh3 1.32/21
[32.Ka2+- 2.80/23 has better winning chances.]
32...Nc4+ 33.bxc4 bxc4+ 34.Ka2 aiming for Bc2. **34...cxd3 35.Bd2!** Prevents Na5. **35...Bd8**
(Diagram)



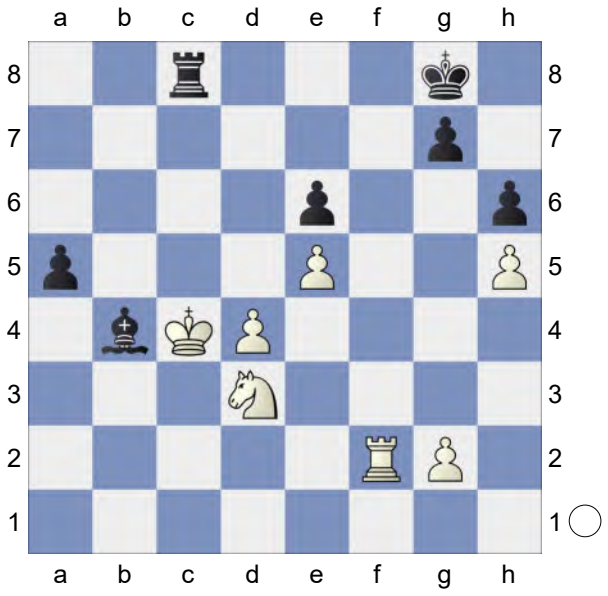
36.Bc3 0.25/23
[Better is 36.Rd1± 0.70/20]
36...Na5!= 37.Nd2↑ Black is under pressure. **37...Bb5 38.a4 Bxa4 39.Rxd3 Bb5** 0.64/24
[39...Nc6= 0.26/24]
40.Rf3± Bb6



41.Bxa5 Bxa5 A strong pair of Bishops.
42.Nb3 Bb4 43.Nc5 Re8 1.57/24
[⌓43...Bc4+ 0.99/24 44.Ka1 Bxc5 45.dxc5 Rc8]
44.Kb3± a5 45.Rc2 Prevents Be2.
45...Kg8

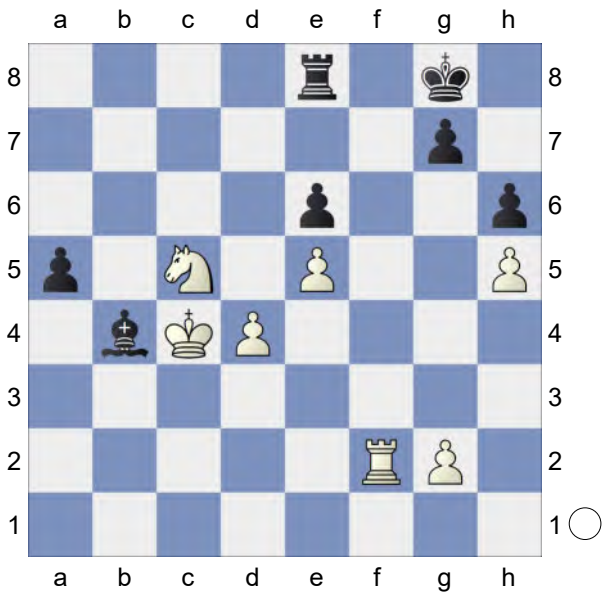


46.Nd3 Bc4+ 47.Rxc4 dxc4+ 48.Kxc4 Endgame KRB-KRN **48...Rb8 49.Rf2** 0.73/26
[⌓49.Nxb4 1.44/25 axb4 50.g4]
49...Rc8+ 1.50/25
[⌓49...Be7 0.73/26]

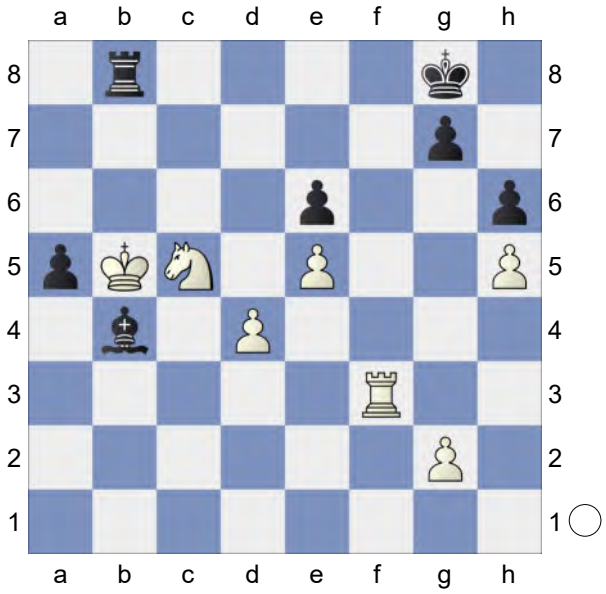


50.Nc5! Re8

(Diagram)



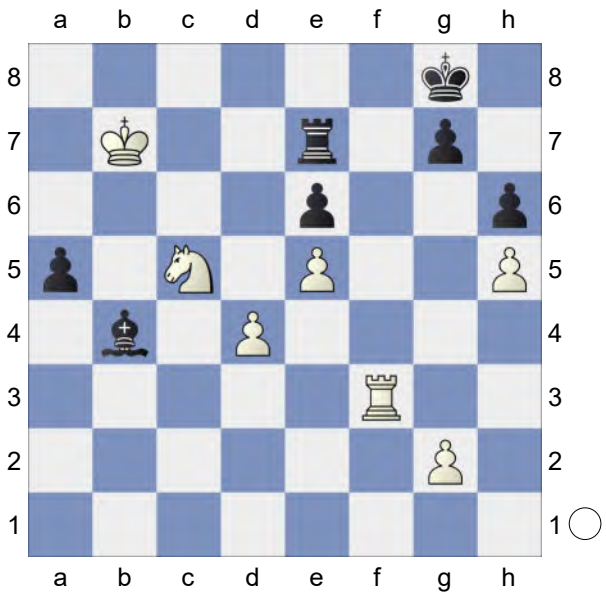
51.Rf3 Rc8 52.Kb5 Rb8+



53.Kc6! Rc8+ 54.Kb6 Re8 55.Kb7 &Bianco is more active. **55...Re7+** 2.00/26

[55...a4± 1.40/25 was called for.]

(Diagram)



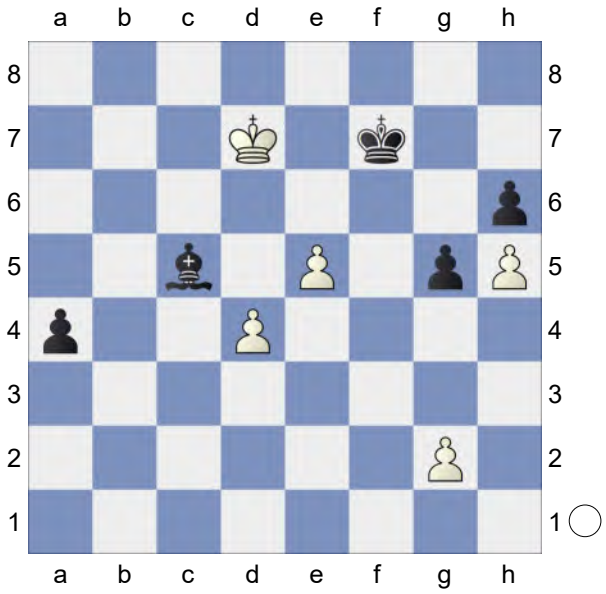
56.Kc6+- Rf7? 10.72/22 A mistake that costs the game.

[56...Ra7± 1.40/24 57.Nxe6 a4]

57.Rxf7

[Weaker is 57.Nxe6 a4 58.d5 a3+-]

57...Kxf7 KB-KN **58.Kd7 g5 59.Nxe6** Threatens to win with Nc5. **59...a4 60.Nc5 Bxc5**

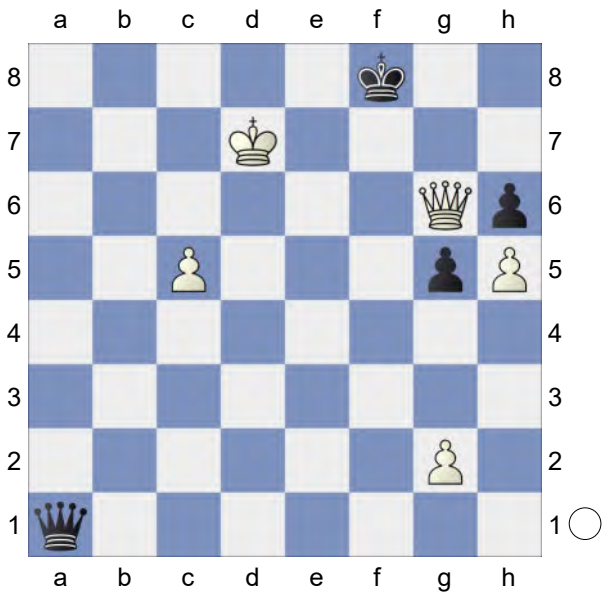


61.dxc5 #21/24 KP-KP

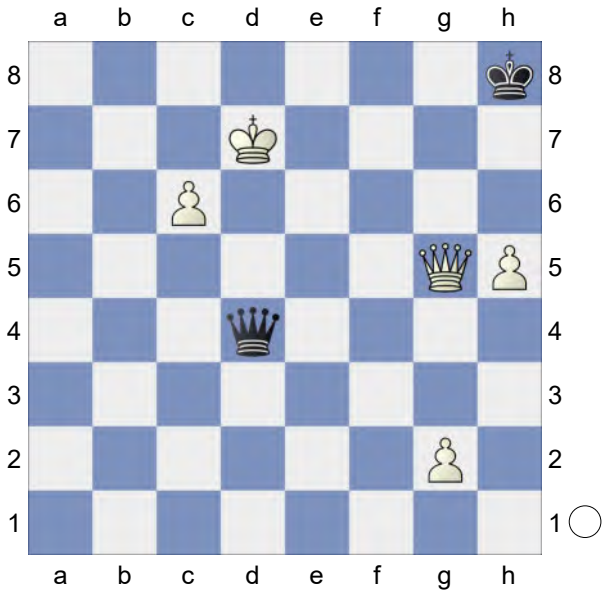
[61.e6++- 24.60/24 Kg7 62.dxc5]

61...a3 62.e6+ Kg7 63.e7 a2 64.e8Q a1Q KQ-KQ **65.Qg6+ Kf8**

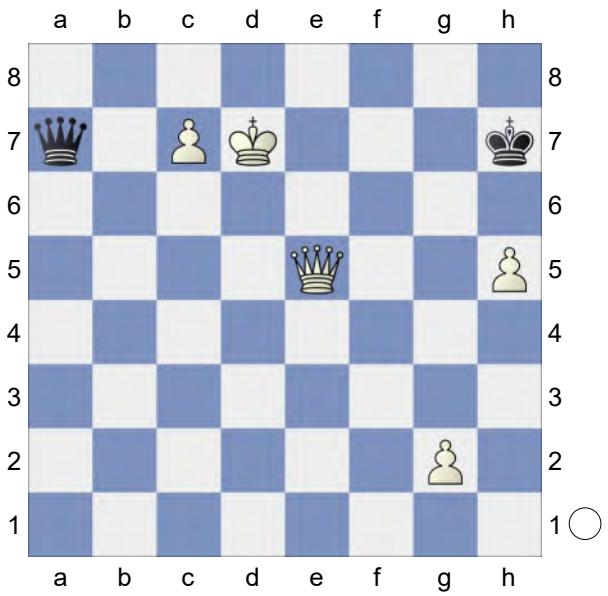
(Diagram)



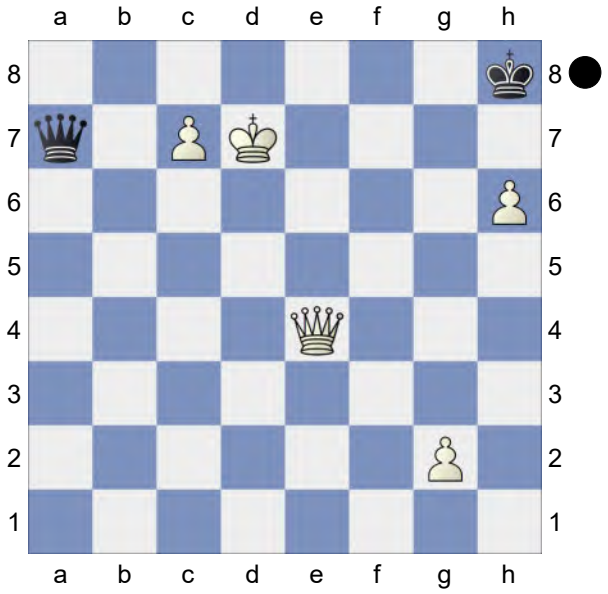
66.Qxh6+ Kf7 67.Qg6+ 5.73/5
[⌓67.Qh7+ #17/21 Kf8 68.Qe7+ Kg8 69.c6 g4 70.Qe6+ Kh7 71.Qg6+ Kh8 72.c7]
67...Kf8 68.Qf5+ 25.12/23
[⌓68.Qd6+ #20/19 Kf7 69.Qe7+ Kg8 70.c6 g4 71.Qe8+ Kh7 72.Qg6+ Kh8 73.c7]
68...Kg8 69.Qxg5+ Kh8 70.c6
White wants to mate with Qf4. **70...Qd4+**



71.Kc8 Qd8+ would kill now. **71...Qc4 72.Qe5+ Kh7 73.c7** White mates. **73...Qa6+ 74.Kd8 Qb6 75.Kd7 Qa7**



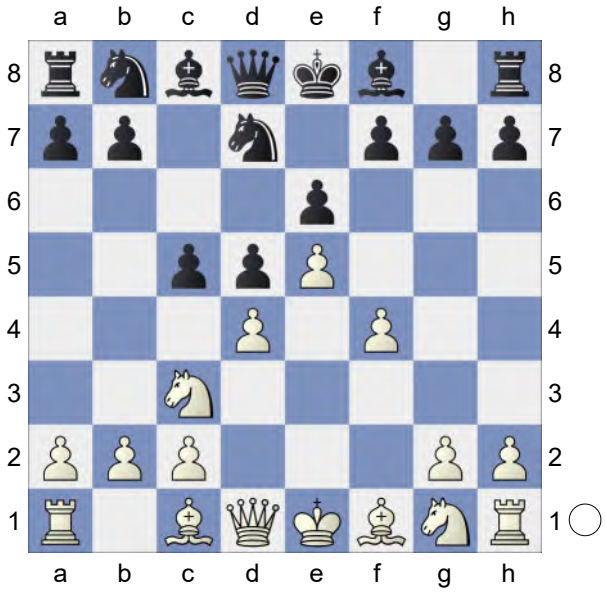
76.Qe4+ Kh8 77.h6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.30
1-0

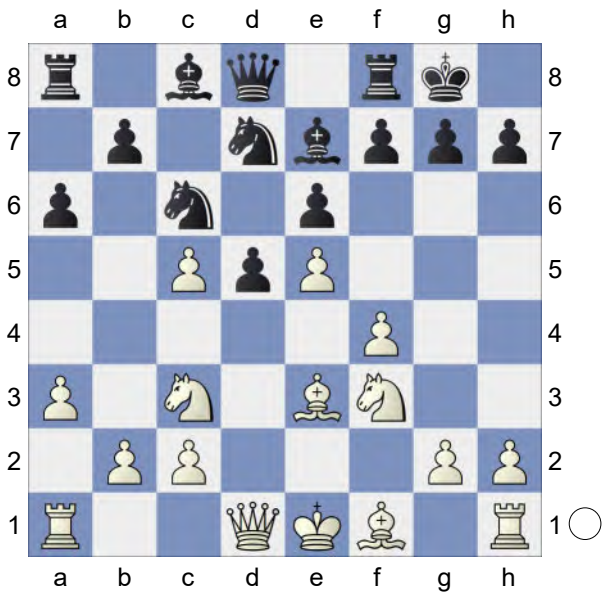
85 **C11**
□ **Pijpers,Arthur** **2474**
■ **Divya,Deshmukh** **2490**
Tata Steel Challengers (13.1) 02.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C11: French: Classical System: 4 e5 and 4 Bg5 dxe4 **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5**

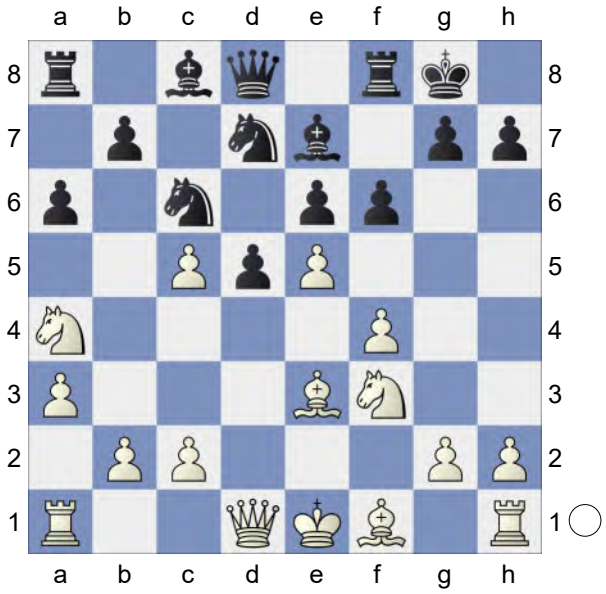


6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 Be7 8.dxc5 0-0 9.a3 a6 0.88/20
[9...Bxc5= 0.14/22 10.Qd3 d4 11.Nxd4 Ndxe5 12.fxe5 Bxd4]

(Diagram)

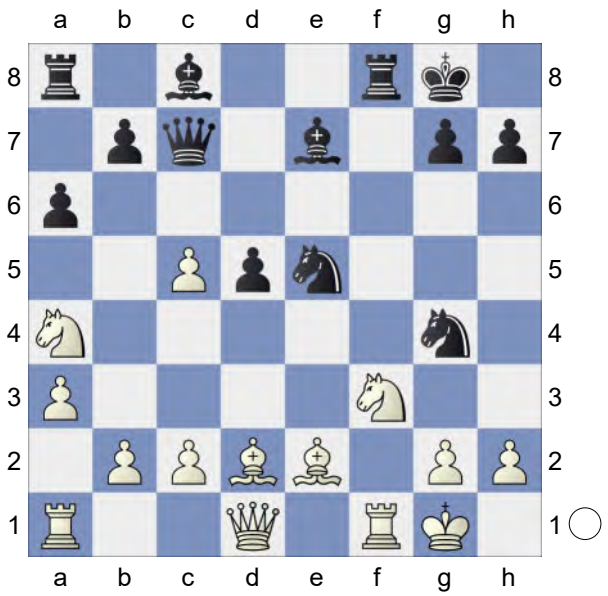


10.Na4!± &Bianco is more active. **10...f6**

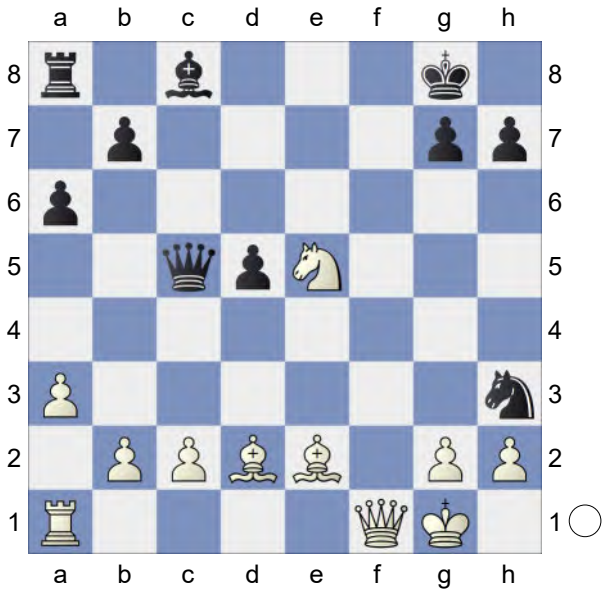


11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Be2 0.58/21
[White should play 12.Nb6± 0.95/19 Rb8 13.Bd3]
12...Ng4!± 13.Bd2 e5! 14.fxe5 Ncxe5 15.0-0! Hoping for Nxe5. **15...Qc7⇄**

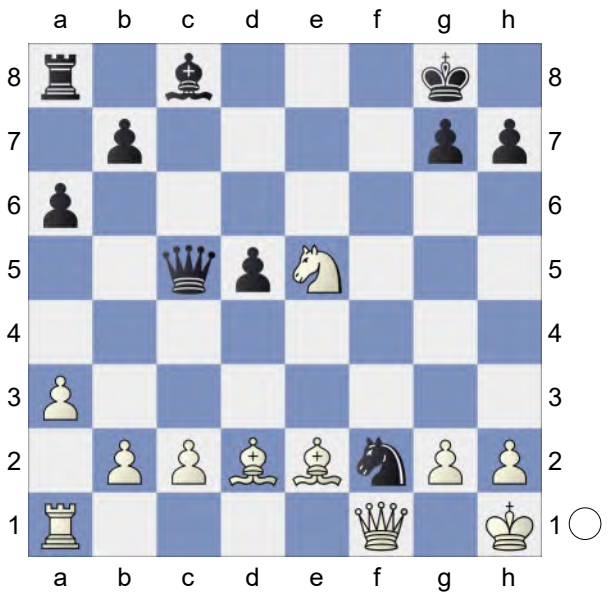
(Diagram)



(→ ...Nxf3+). Black is fighting back
16.Nxe5 Bxc5+
[Much less strong is 16...Rxf1+ 17.Kxf1 Nxh2+ 18.Kg1 Qxe5 19.Bc3±]
17.Nxc5 Qxc5+ 18.Kh1 Rxf1+
19.Qxf1 White threatens Qf7+ and mate.
19...Nf2+ 20.Kg1 Nh3+



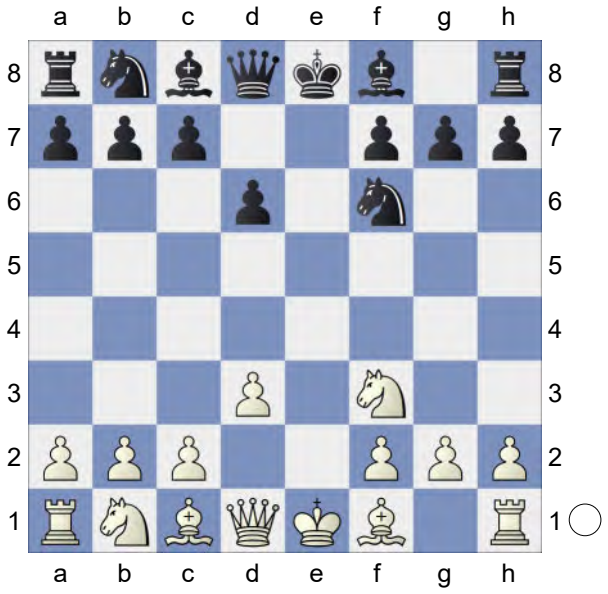
Discovered Attack (Double Check)
21.Kh1 Intending Qf7+ and mate.
21...Nf2+ 22.Kg1 Nh3+ Discovered Attack (Double Check) **23.Kh1** Threatening mate with Qf7+. **23...Nf2+**



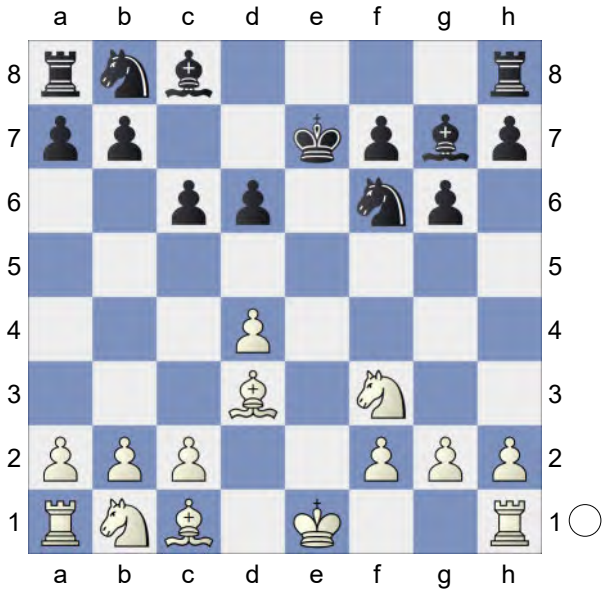
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
½-½

86 **C42**
□ **Svane,Frederik** **2664**
■ **Gurel,Ediz** **2624**
Tata Steel Challengers (13.2) 02.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

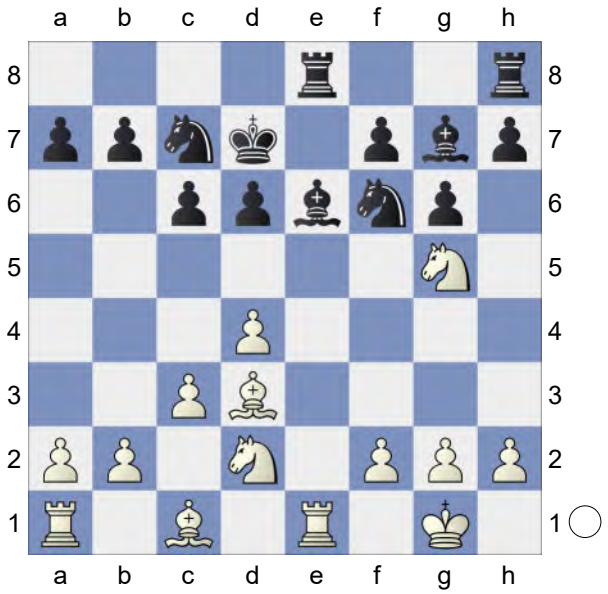
C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d3 Nf6**



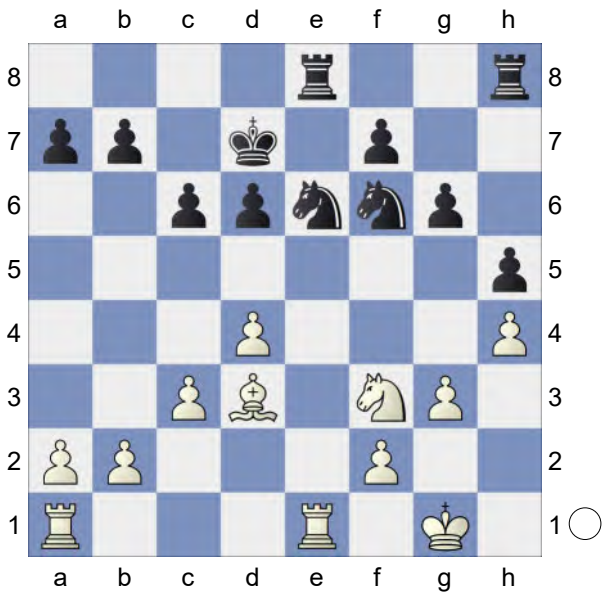
6.d4 g6 7.Bb5+ c6 8.Bd3 Bg7 White has an edge. **9.Qe2+ Qe7 10.Qxe7+ Kxe7**



11.0-0 Na6N
[11...Rd8 12.a4 *(12.Re1+ Kf8 13.h3 h6 14.c4* 9) Petroff Sidelines-Petroff sidelines: 3...d6 4.N*)* 12...a5 13.Nbd2 Na6 14.c3 Nc7 15.Nc4 Ncd5 16.Re1+ Kf8 17.h3 b6 18.Bg5 Ba6 19.Bf1 Rd7 20.Bh4 Nh5 21.g4 Nhf4 22.Kh2 Bxc4 23.Bxc4 Bf6 24.Bxd5 Nxd5 25.c4 Bxh4 26.cxd5 1-0 Tirb,A (2556)-Rushkin (2431) 26th Open Cappelle la Grande FRA 2010 (3) Bf6 27.dxc6 Rc7 28.d5 Bxb2 29.Rab1 Bc3 30.Rec1 Bb4 31.Ne1 b5 32.axb5 Rb8 33.Nc2 Rxb5 34.Rd1 Rc8 35.Rd4 Rcb8 36.Rb3 Kg7 37.Kg2 h6 38.h4 Kf6 39.Rf3+ Kg7 40.Rdf4 f5 41.gxf5 1-0 Kobo,O (2556)-Wadsworth,M (2431) Dortmund Sparkassen op 50th 2023 (3)]
12.c3 Dodges Nb4 **12...Nc7 13.Re1+ Be6 14.Ng5 Kd7 15.Nd2**
[15.Nxe6 keeps more tension. Rae8 16.Nd2 Rxe6 17.Rxe6 Nxe6 18.Nf3]
15...Rae8



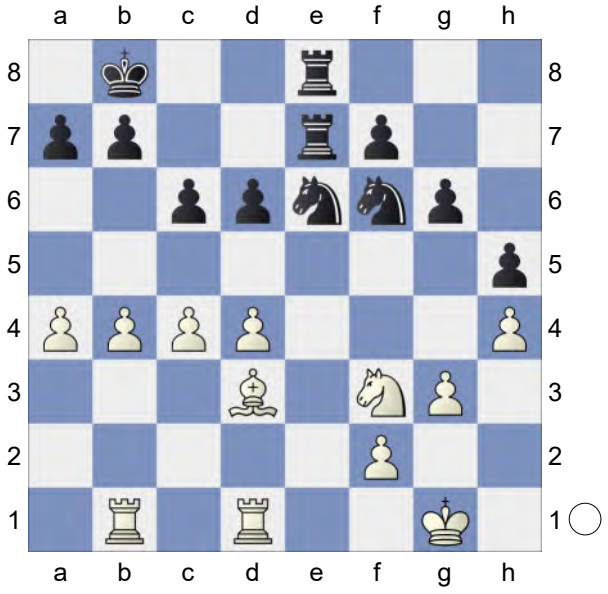
16.Nxe6 Nxe6 17.Nf3 h5 18.h4 Bh6 19.Bxh6 Rxh6 20.g3 Rhh8
(Diagram)



21.c4 Re7 22.b4 Ra8 23.Rab1 Rae8 0.40/21

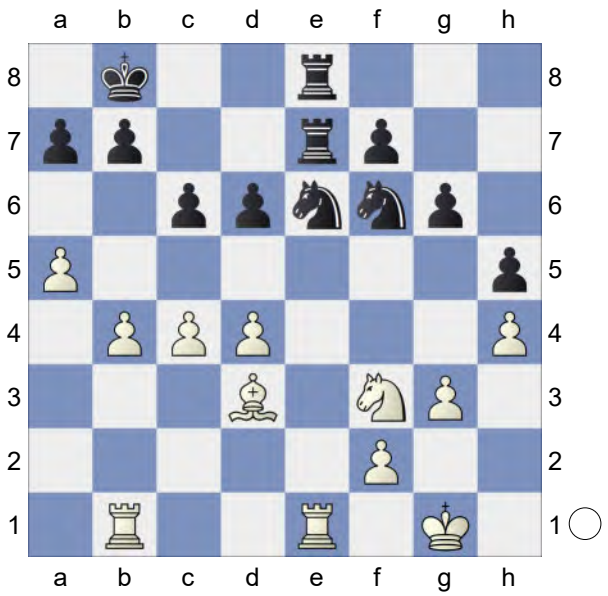
[23...a5= 0.01/20 deserves consideration.]

24.a4± Kc8 25.Red1 Kb8



26.a5 Rd8 27.Re1 Rde8

(Diagram)



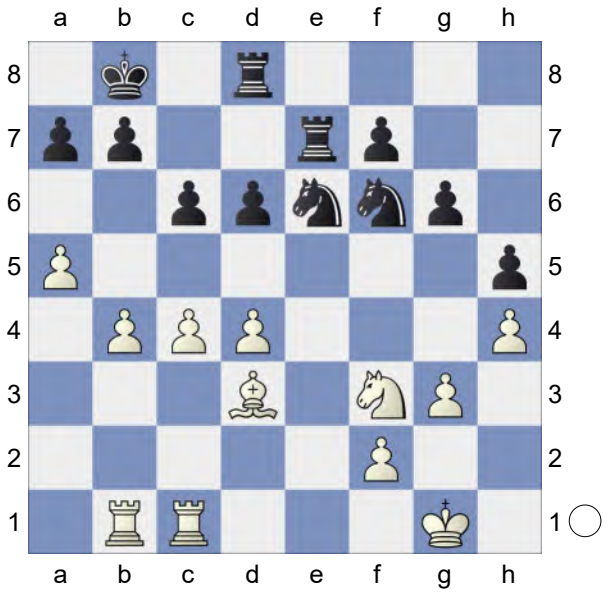
...Nxd4! is the strong threat. **28.Rec1** White is more active. **28...Rd8 29.Re1** -0.01/18

[29.Bf1± 0.50/21]

29...Rde8!= aiming for ...Nxd4! **30.Rec1** -0.01/17

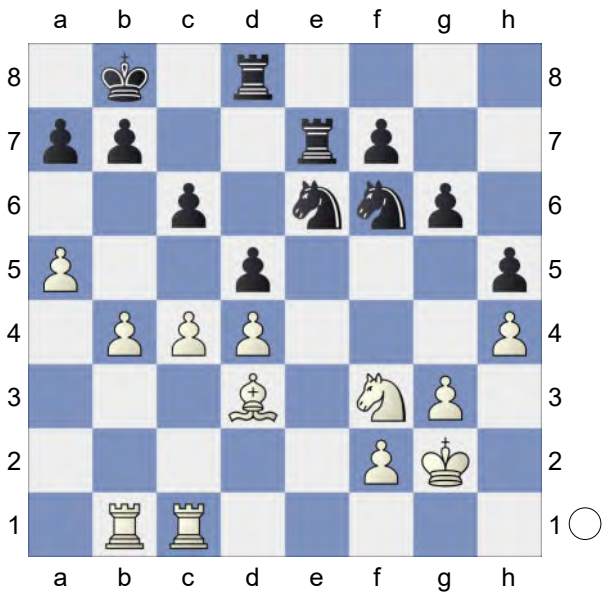
[30.Kg2± 0.54/19]

30...Rd8!

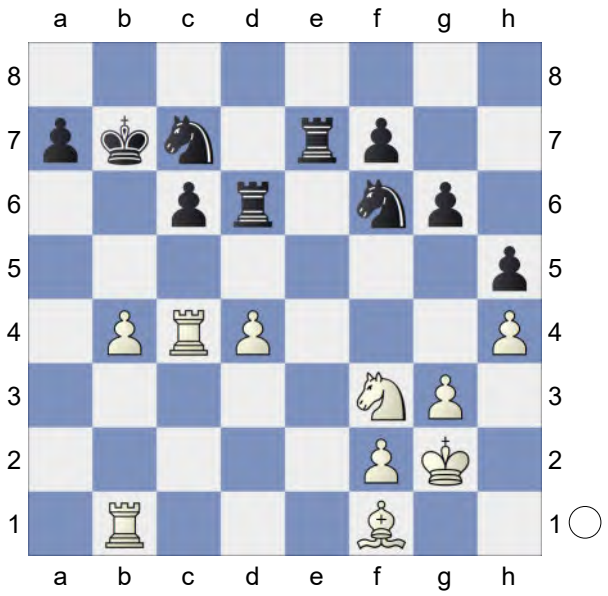


31.Kg2 d5

(Diagram)



32.a6 0.15/20 **dxc4 33.Rxc4 Rd6 34.axb7 Kxb7 35.Bf1 Nc7**

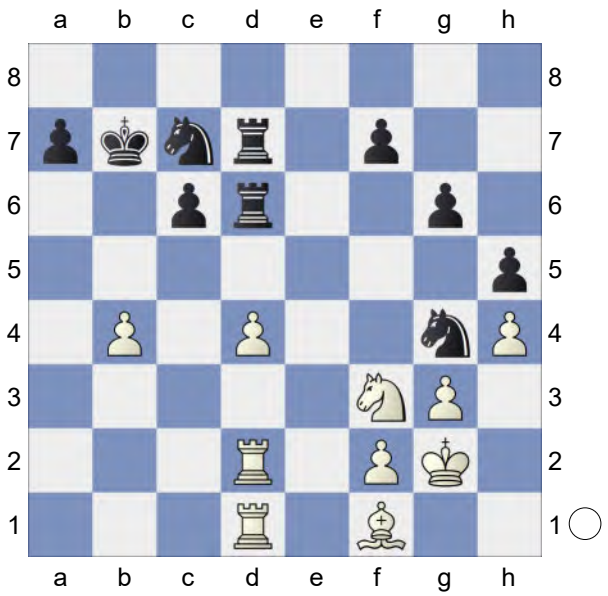


36.Rc5 Ne6 37.Re5 Ng4 38.Re2 Rc7 0.63/22

[38...Red7= 0.23/20 was preferrable.]

39.Rd2 Rcd7 40.Rbd1! Nc7

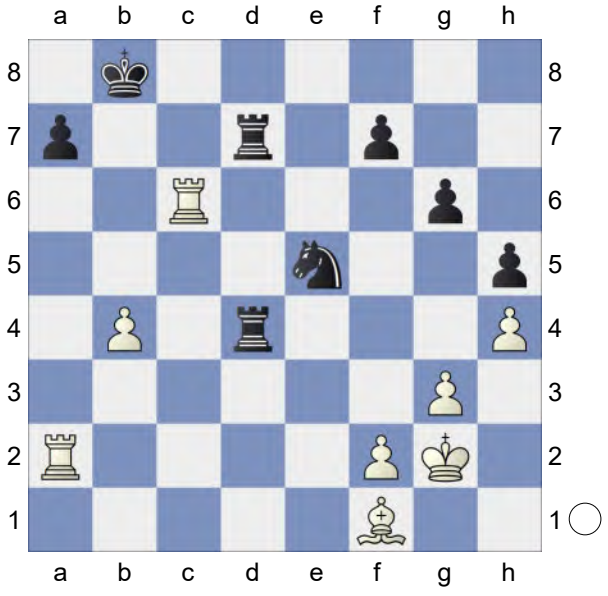
(Diagram)



Against b5 **41.Ra1 Nb5 42.Rda2** And now Bxb5 would win. **42...Kb8 43.Rc1** 0.21/23

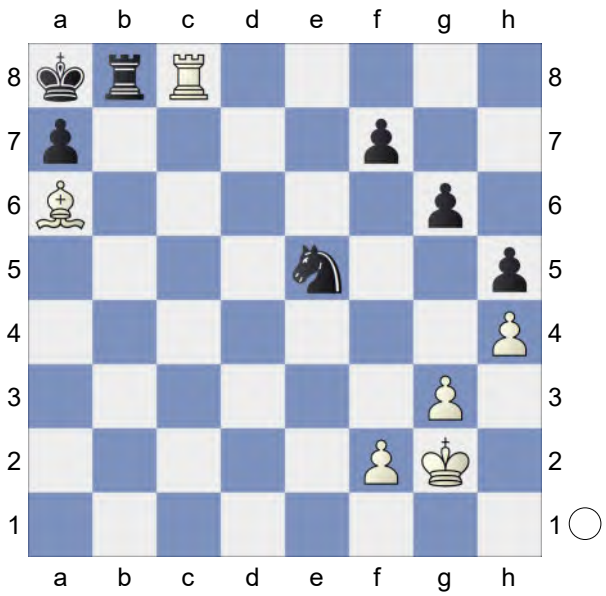
[43.Ne5± 0.65/22 Nxe5 44.dxe5]

43...Nxd4 44.Nxd4 Rxd4 45.Rxc6 Ne5!

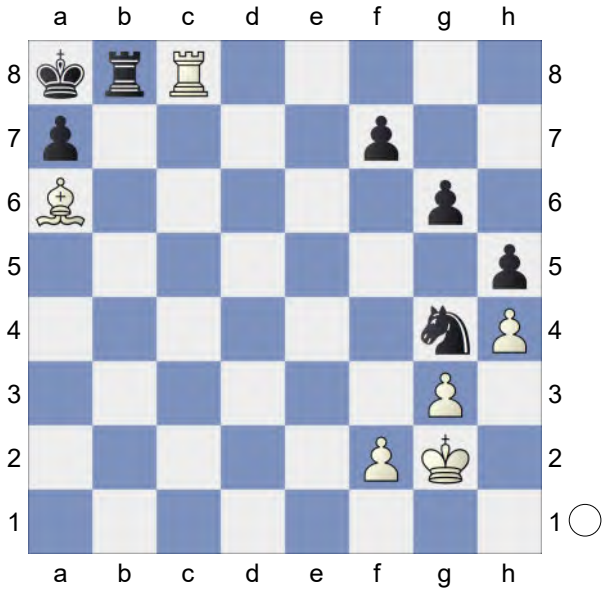


46.Rc3 Strongly threatening Ra5. **46...Rxb4 47.Ba6 Rc7** The position is equal. **48.Rac2 Rxc3 49.Rxc3** Endgame. KRB-KRN **49...Ka8 50.Rc8+ Rb8**

(Diagram)

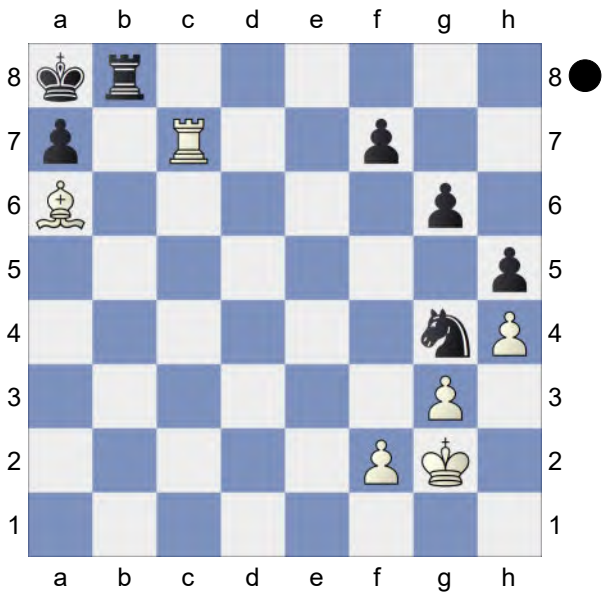


51.Rc7 Rb6 52.Rc8+ Rb8 White must now prevent ...Rxc8. **53.Rc5 Ng4 54.Rc7 Rb6 55.Rc8+ Rb8**



56.Rc7 Rb6 57.Rc8+ Rb8 58.Rc7

(Diagram)

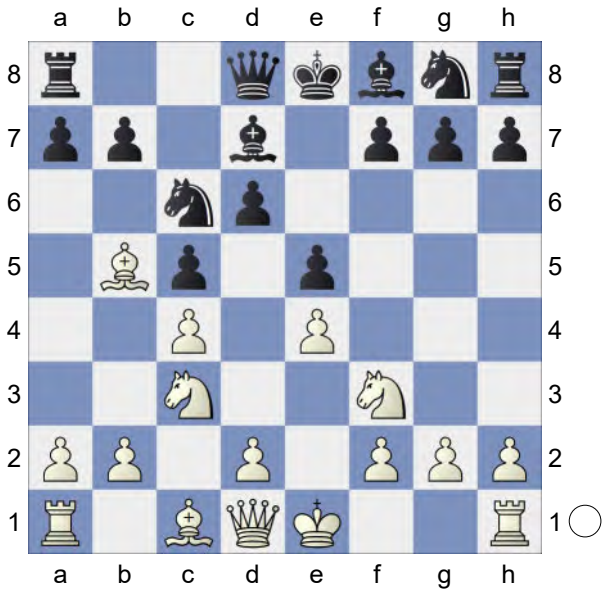


Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

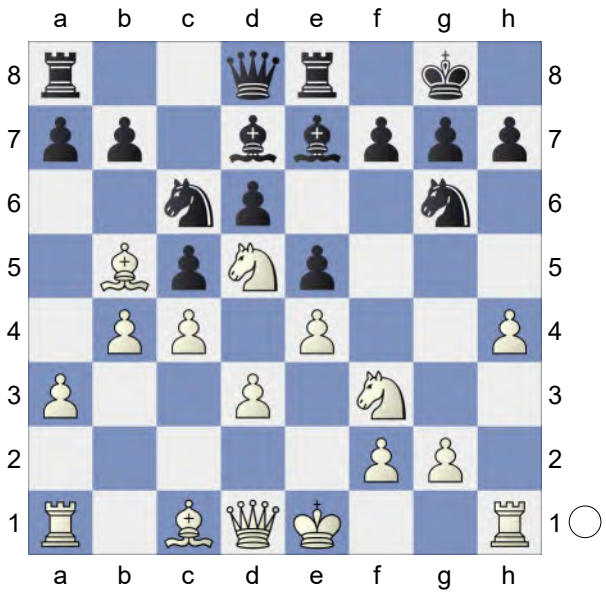
½-½

87 **B52**
□ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2476**
■ **L'Ami,Erwin** **2614**
Tata Steel Challengers (13.3) 02.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B52: Sicilian: Moscow Variation with 3...Bd7 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.c4 Nc6 5.Nc3 e5**
[5...g6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bg7 8.Be3 Nf6 9.h3 0-0 10.0-0 Rc8 11.b3 a6 12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.Nxc6 Rxc6 14.Rc1 b5 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Qd3 b4 17.Nd5 Rxc1 18.Rxc1 Nxd5 19.exd5 Qa8 20.Rc2 Ongut,T (2373)-Hartmann,G (2393) Santiago de Chile 2023 ZUS D32 [John Watson] ½-½ (64)]

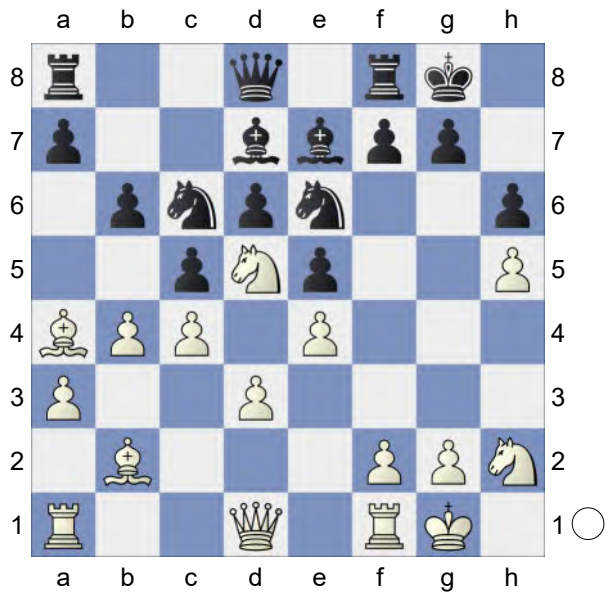


6.d3 Nge7
[6...g6 7.Nd5 Bg7 8.0-0 h6 9.b4 Nge7 10.bxc5 dxc5 11.Be3 b6 12.Qc1 f5 13.a4 f4 14.Bd2 g5 15.Bc3 g4 16.Nd2 0-0 17.a5 Rb8 18.axb6 axb6 19.Qb2 Ng6 20.Bxc6 Bxc6 21.Ra6 Bartel,M (2638)-Sjugirov,S (2635) Rhodes 2013 CBM 157 [Bartel,Mateusz] 1-0 (33)]
7.a3 Ng6 8.Nd5N The position is equal.
[8.h4 h5 9.b4 cxb4 10.axb4 Nxb4 11.Rb1 Nc6 12.Ba4 #1 4) The Moscow Variation 3.Bb5-3...Bd7 4.c4 Nc6]
8...Be7 9.b4 0-0 10.h4 -0.22/21
[10.0-0 0.20/18 might be stronger.]
10...Re8 0.35/21
[10...Bg4= -0.22/21]

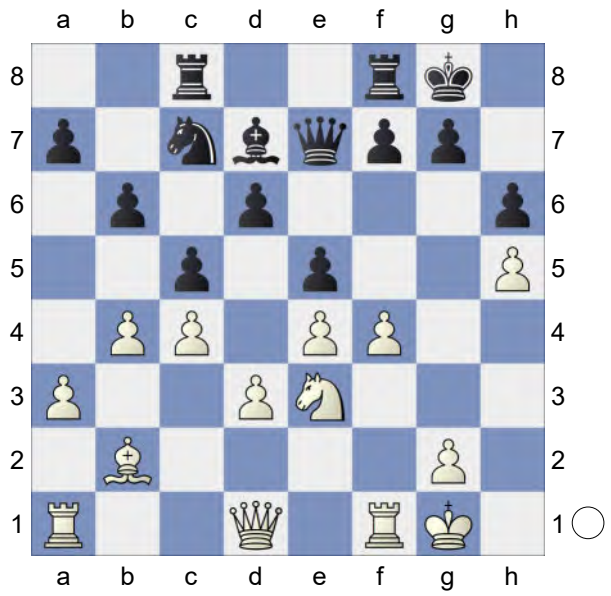


11.h5± Nf8 12.Bb2 0.10/20
[12.h6± 0.61/20 g6 13.0-0]
12...b6 0.64/18
[12...Bg4= 0.10/20]
13.Ba4 0.32/21
[⌓13.h6 0.64/18 g6 14.0-0]
13...Ne6 14.0-0 h6 15.Nh2 -0.01/19
[15.Bc3± 0.32/18 deserves consideration.]
15...Rf8

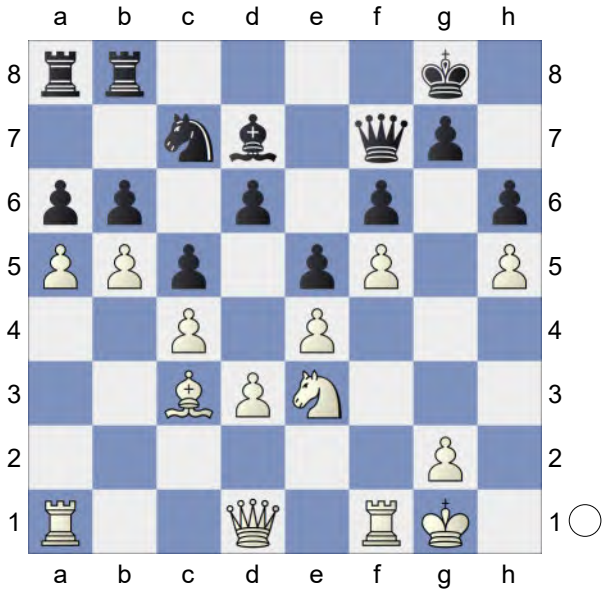
(Diagram)



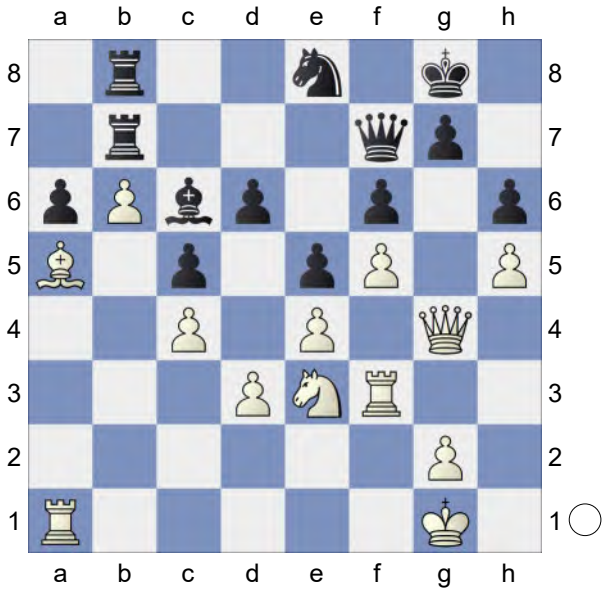
16.Ng4 Rc8 0.52/21
[16...Nf4= 0.19/20 feels stronger.]
17.Nge3 Nc7 1.19/24
[17...Bg5± 0.63/22]
18.Bxc6± Bxc6 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.f4
[20.Nf5 is interesting. Qf6 21.f4 Bd7 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.Qg4]
20...Bd7



21.f5 f6 0.82/21
[21...Ne8± 0.45/20]
22.b5 a6 23.a4 Ra8 24.Bc3 Rfb8 1.70/26
[24...axb5± 0.82/22 25.axb5 Rxa1 26.Qxa1 Ra8]
25.a5+- Qf7

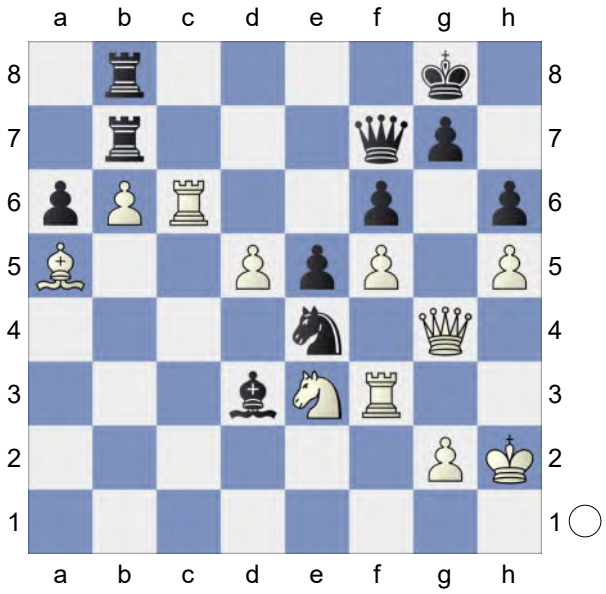


26.axb6 Rxb6 2.41/23
[26...Ne8± 1.46/24 is a better defense. 27.b7 *(27.bxa6 Rxb6 28.g4 Bc6=; 27.Rxa6 Rxa6 28.bxa6 Rxb6±)* 27...Rxb7]
27.Ba5 Rb7 28.b6 Ne8 29.Qg4 Bc6 30.Rf3 Rab8



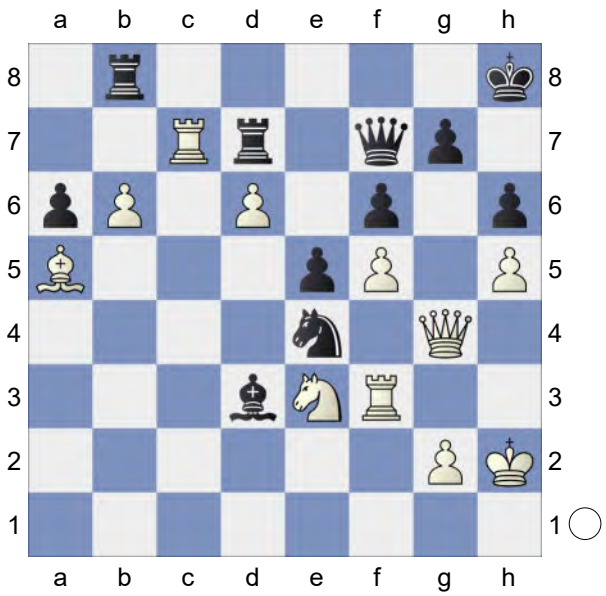
31.Kh2 1.34/23
[31.Rf2+- 1.81/25]
31...d5 2.55/25
[31...Rxb6± 1.34/23 32.Bxb6 Rxb6]

32.cxd5 Bb5 33.Rc1 1.14/25
[White should try 33.Nc4+- 1.77/23]
33...Bxd3± 34.Rxc5 Nd6 35.Rc6
[Much worse is 35.Rc7?! Rxc7 36.bxc7 Rb5∓]
35...Nxe4 1.93/23
[35...Rd7± 1.26/23 was necessary.]

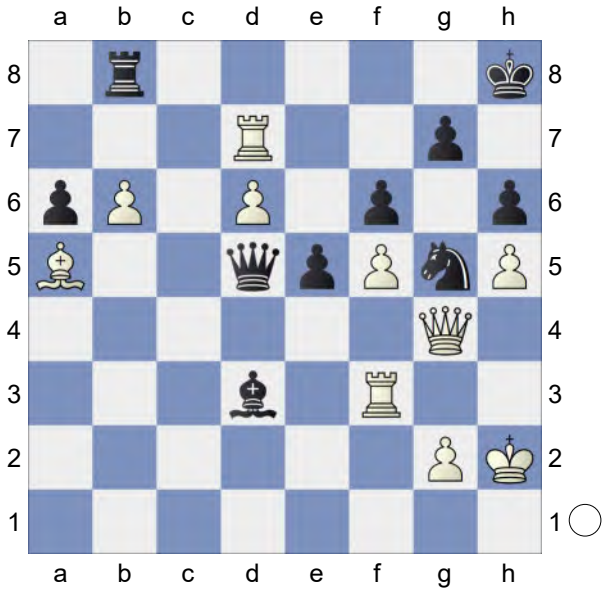


36.d6!+- Rd7 37.Rc7 0.65/22
[37.Nd1!+- 1.78/22 Qd5 38.Rc7 Qxd6 39.Nb2]
37...Kh8? 3.74/25
[37...Nxd6? 38.Rxd7 Qxd7 39.Nd5+-]
[37...Ng5!± 0.65/22]

(Diagram)

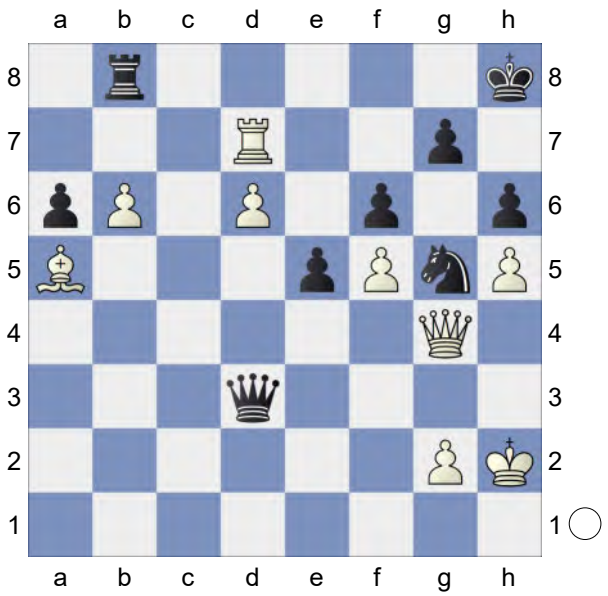


38.Nd5!↑ 1.56/24 Black is under strong pressure. **38...Qxd5± 39.Rxd7** Really sharp! **39...Ng5**

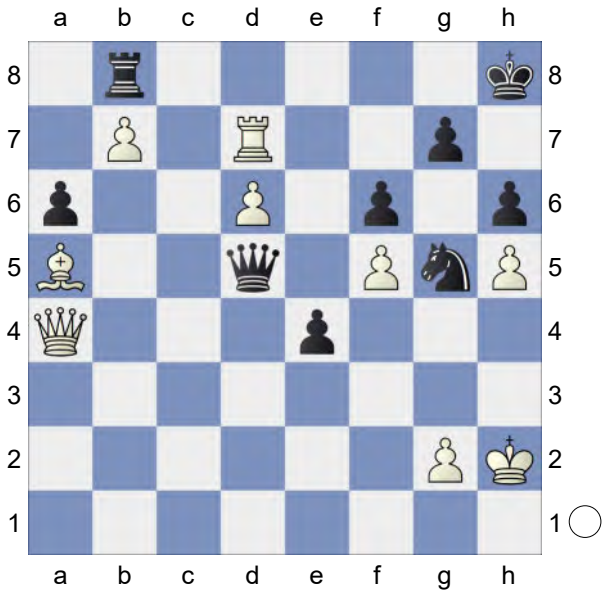


40.Rxd3 Qxd3

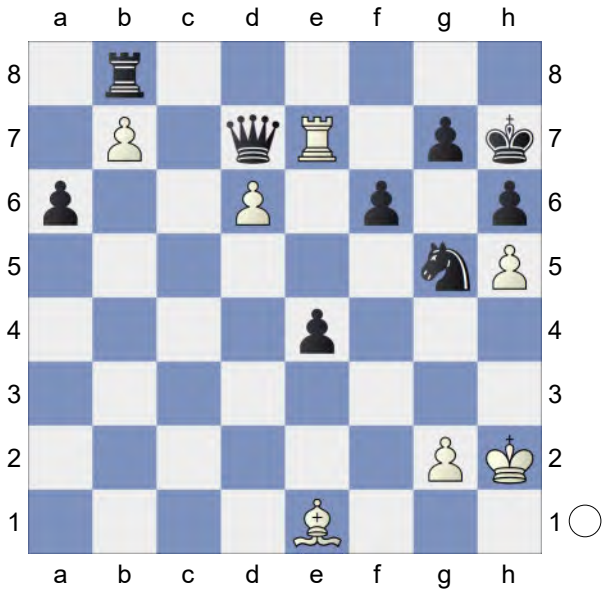
(Diagram)



41.b7 Hoping for Rc7. **41...Qd5** 2.53/25
[41...Qb5? 42.Rc7 Rxb7 43.d7! Qxd7 44.Rxd7 Rxd7 45.Bb6+-]
[41...Kh7± 1.29/25]
42.Qa4 1.02/24
[42.Qb4+- 2.53/25 has better winning chances. e4 43.Rd8+ Rxd8 44.Bxd8 Qe5+ 45.Kg1]
42...e4
[42...Rxb7 43.Rd8+]

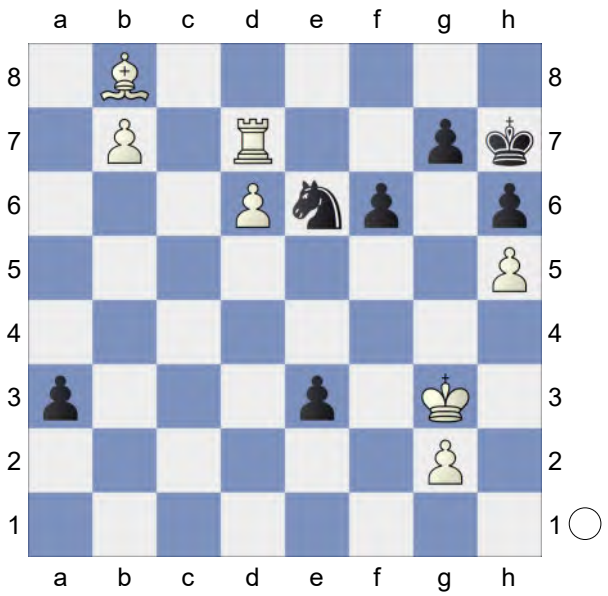


43.Be1! Qxf5? 4.80/25
[43...Rxb7 44.Rxb7 Qxb7 45.Qe8+ Kh7 46.d7 Qb6 47.d8Q Qxd8 48.Qxd8]
[43...Qe5+± 0.72/22 is a better chance. 44.Kg1 Qc5+ 45.Kh2 Qe5+ 46.Kg1 Qc5+ 47.Bf2 e3]
44.Re7+- Strongly threatening Re8+. Active counter play! **44...Kh7** 6.89/21
[⌓44...Qf4+ 4.67/23 45.Bg3 Qd2]
45.Qd7 Qxd7

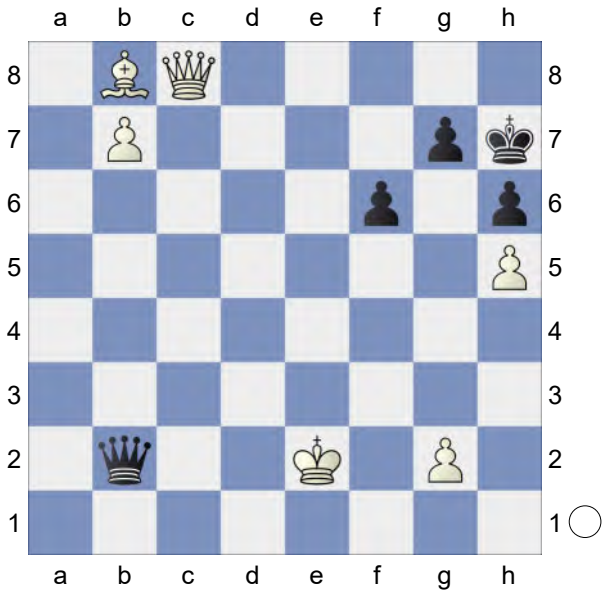


46.Rxd7 Endgame KRB-KRN **46...Ne6** **47.Bf2 a5 48.Ba7 e3 49.Kg3**
[Weaker is 49.Bxb8 e2=]
49...a4 50.Bxb8 Intending Ba7 and mate. **50...a3**

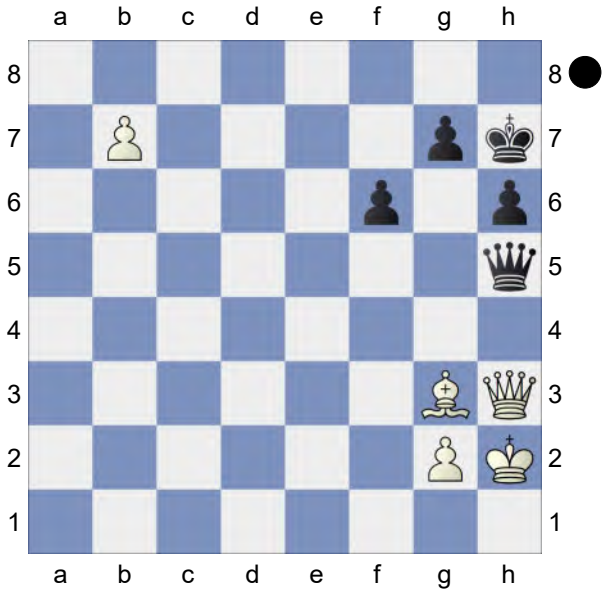
(Diagram)



51.Rc7! Nxc7
[51...a2 52.Rc1]
52.dxc7 KB-KP **52...e2 53.Kf2 a2 54.c8Q** 16.95/23
[⌓54.Kxe2 #22/22 a1Q 55.c8Q Qh1 56.Kf2 Qh4+ 57.Bg3 Qd4+ 58.Kf1 Qd3+ 59.Kg1 Qd1+ 60.Kh2 Qxh5+ 61.Qh3 Qxh3+ 62.Kxh3]
54...a1Q 55.Kxe2 White wants to mate with Bf4. **55...Qb2+**



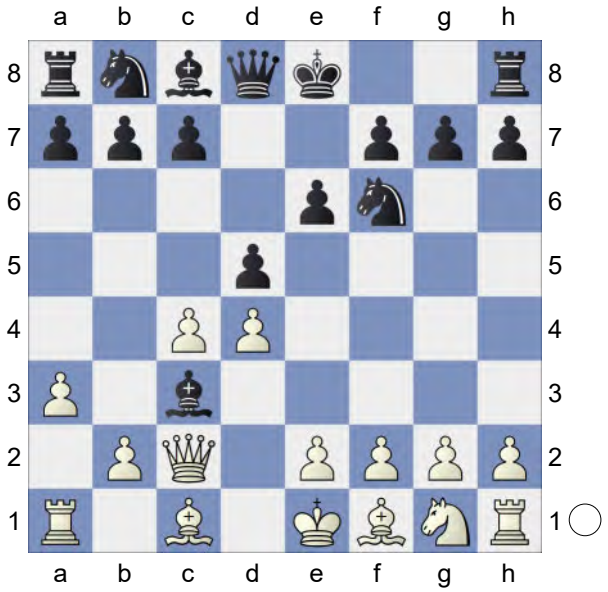
56.Kf1 18.88/22
[⌓56.Kf3 #19/22 Qb3+ 57.Kg4 Qd1+ 58.Kg3 Qb3+ 59.Kh2 Qb4 60.Bg3 Qb5 61.Qc2+ Kh8 62.b8Q+ Qxb8 63.Bxb8]
56...Qb5+ 57.Kg1 White mates.
57...Qb6+ 58.Kh2 Qb5 59.Bg3 Qxh5+ 60.Qh3



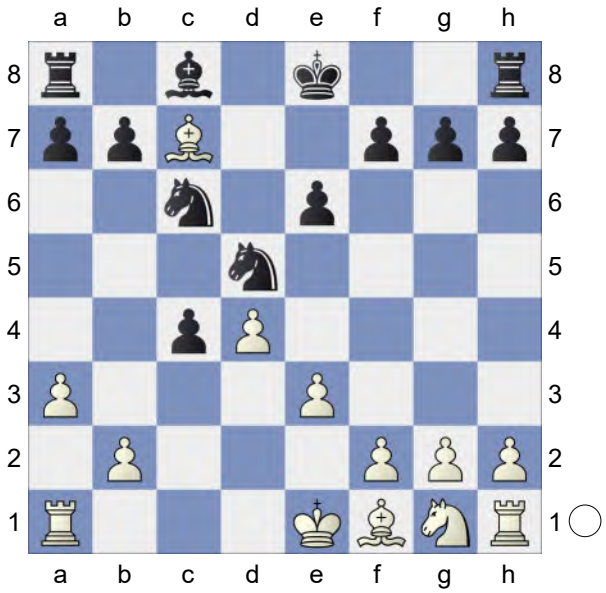
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.91
1-0

88 **E36**
□ **Bok,Benjamin** **2583**
■ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2668**
Tata Steel Challengers (13.4) 02.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

E36: Nimzo-Indian: Classical: 4...d5 5 a3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+



6.Qxc3 Nc6 0.46/18
[6...dxc4= 0.09/19 7.Qxc4 b6]
7.Bg5 0.09/20
[7.Nf3± 0.46/18 should be considered.]
7...dxc4
[7...Ne4!? 8.Bxd8 Nxc3± 9.Bxc7 Nxd4 10.Rc1 Na4 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Be5 Nc6 13.Bxg7 Rg8 14.Bc3 d4 15.Bd2 Nxb2 16.g3 Be6 17.Bg2 Nc4 18.Nf3 f6 19.0-0 Kf7 20.Bf4 Nxa3 21.Nd2 Nb5 22.Ne4 Rac8 23.Rc5 a6 ½-½ Dreev,A (2677)-Avrukh,B (2585) EU-Cup 28th Eilat 2012 (2.4) 24.Rb1 Nca7 25.Rh5 Kg7 26.h3 Bf7 27.Bh6+ Kg6 28.g4 Be6 29.f4 Bc4 30.f5+ Kf7 31.Bf4 Kg7 32.g5 Bxe2 33.gxf6+ Kh8 34.f7 Rg7 35.Rh6 Bd3 36.Re1 Bxe4 37.Rxe4 Rxf7 38.Be5+ Kg8 1-0 Bancroft,H (2606)-Mecelica,E (2554) 21st ch-EUR Indiv 2021 Reykjavik ISL (3.1)]
8.e3 Nd5N Discovered Attack
[8...h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nf3 0-0 11.Bxc4 Re8 12.Rd1 a6 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Rd2 Qe7 15.Ba2 Qd6 16.Rc1 Rac8 17.Bb1 Ne7 18.Ne5 Nd5 19.Qb3 Bb5 20.Qc2 Nf6 21.h3 Red8 22.Ng4 Qe7 23.Nxf6+ ½-½ Kaussen,O (2630)-Puccini,J (2560) DDR-corr H/119 DDR corr 1984 (10) Qxf6 24.Qh7+ Kf8 25.Rdc2 Bc6 26.Rc5 Ke7 27.Ba2 Rd7 28.Bc4 Bd5 29.Bf1 g6 30.Qxh6 Rh8 31.Qf4 Qxf4 32.exf4 c6 33.R5c3 a5 34.f3 Rhd8 35.Kf2 a4 36.Ke3 Bb3 37.Rd3 f6 38.Be2 ½-½ Gurevich,M (2630)-Parligras,M (2560) EU-ch 6th Warsaw 2005 (10)]
9.Bxd8 The position is equal. **9...Nxc3 10.Bxc7 Nd5**



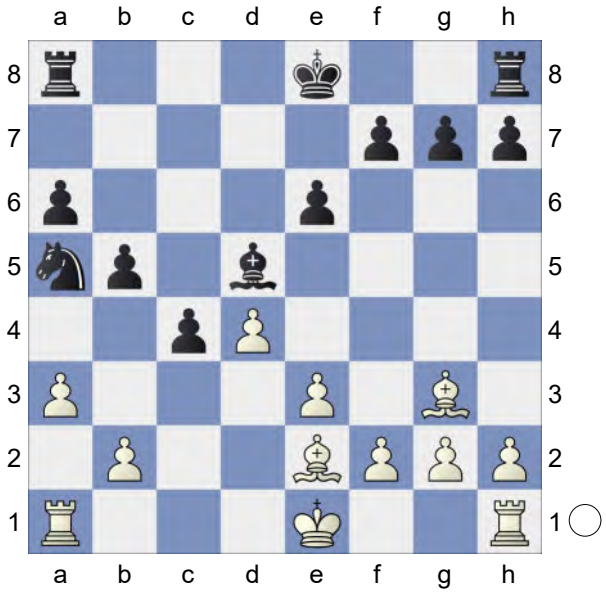
11.Bg3 Na5 12.Ne2 b5 13.Nc3 -0.14/19
[13.e4 0.22/19 feels stronger. Nb3 14.Rd1]
13...a6 0.27/19

[⌓13...Nb3 -0.14/19 14.Rd1 Bd7]

14.Be2 -0.17/21

[⌓14.e4 0.27/19 Nxc3 15.bxc3]

14...Bb7 15.Nxd5 Bxd5



16.f3 Nb3 17.Rb1 Rc8 18.Bd1 Kd7 0.39/21

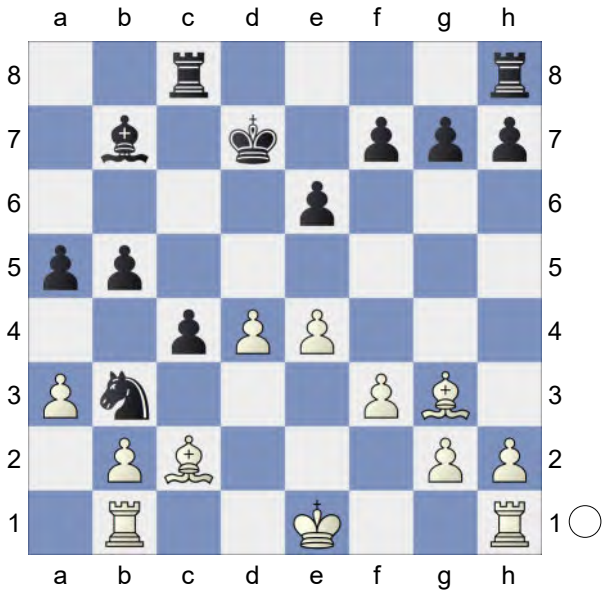
[18...Ke7= -0.05/19]

19.e4± Bb7 20.Bc2

[20.Bxb3 cxb3 21.0-0 Rc2∓]

20...a5

[20...Nxd4? 21.Rd1+-]



21.Kf2 Rhf8

[21...Nxd4? 22.Rbd1+-]

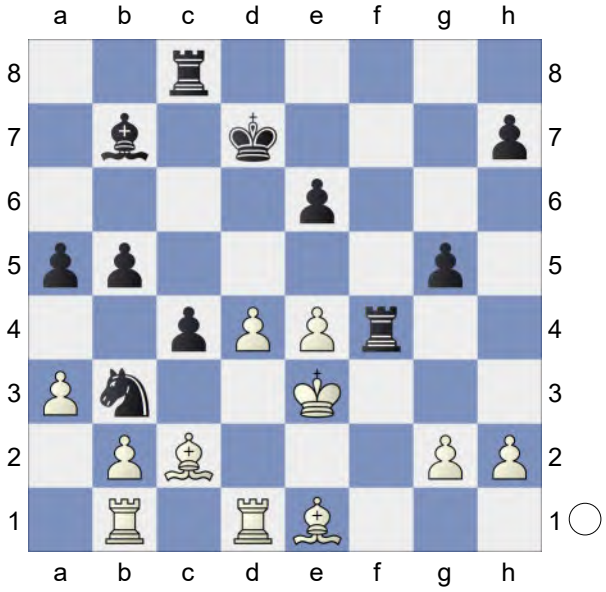
22.Ke3

[22.Bxb3 cxb3 23.Rhc1 f5∓]

22...f5 23.Rhd1 g5 24.Be1 fxe4 0.63/21

[24...Rf7= 0.18/19]

25.fxe4 Rf4



26.Bg3 Rff8 27.Bxb3 0.16/20

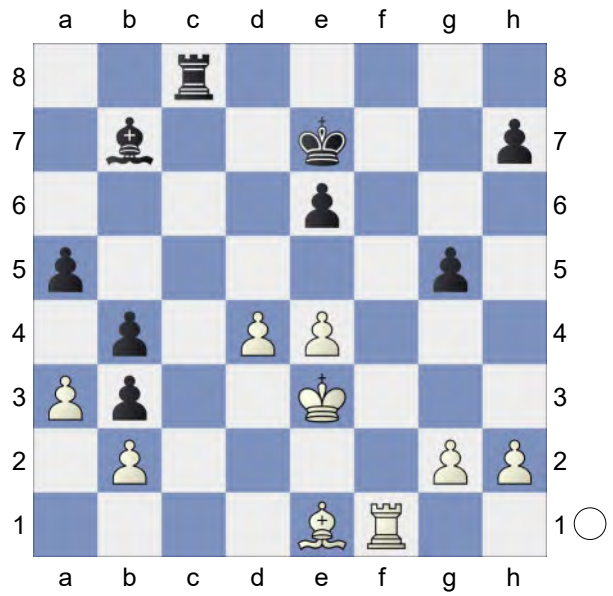
[White should try 27.Be5± 1.04/21]

27...cxb3= 28.Rf1 Rxf1 29.Rxf1 Endgame. KRB-KRB **29...Ke7** Dodges Rf7+

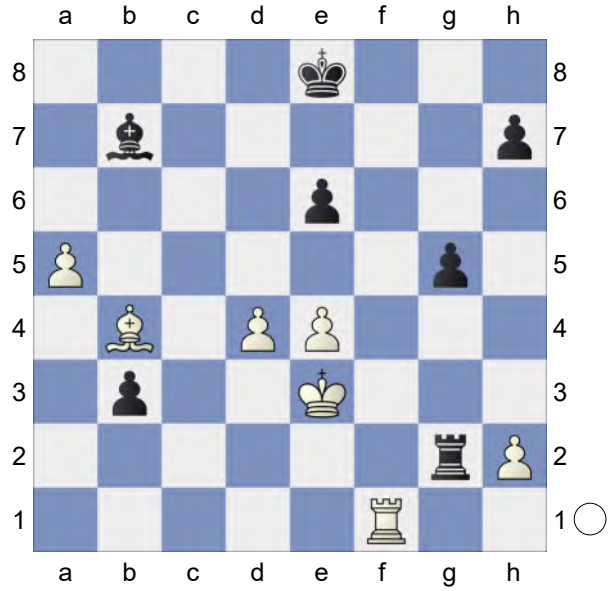
[29...Rc2!?]

30.Be1 b4

(Diagram)

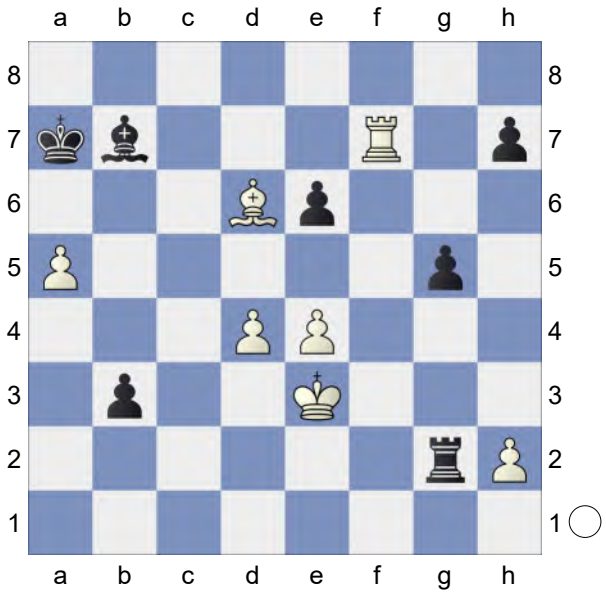


31.axb4 Rc1 0.54/22
[31...Rc2= 0.01/23]
32.bxa5± Ke8! 33.Kd2 Rc2+ 34.Ke3 Hoping for Rf6. **34...Rxb2** Strongly threatening ...Rb1! **35.Bb4 Rxg2**

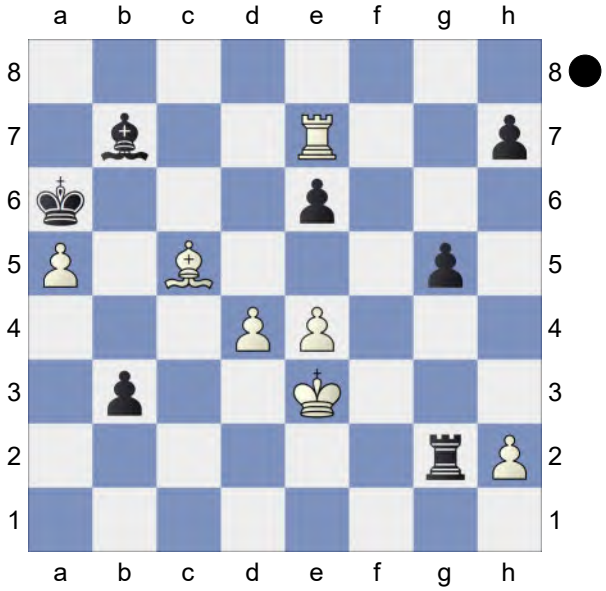


36.Rf8+ Kd7 37.Rf7+ Kc8 38.Rf8+
[38.Rxh7 b2 39.Rh8+ Kc7 40.Rh7+ Kb8 *(40...Kc6? 41.d5+ exd5 42.Rh6+ Kd7 43.Rh7+ Kc8 44.Rh8+ Kc7 45.Rh7+ Kb8 46.Rh8+ Bc8 47.Bd6+ Kb7 48.a6+ Ka7 49.Bc5+ Kxa6 50.Rh6+ Ka5 51.Rb6-+)* 41.Bd6+ Ka8-+]

38...Kc7 39.Rf7+ Kb8 40.Bd6+ Ka7



41.Bc5+? -2.21/25
[41.d5∓ -0.45/21]
41...Ka6-+ Threatens to win with ...b2.
42.Re7 -2.97/25
[⌓42.Rf1 -2.01/19]



42...b2!
[42...Rxh2 43.Rxe6+ Kxa5 44.d5∓]
43.Rxe6+
[43.Rxh7 b1Q *(43...b1R? 44.d5-+)* 44.d5 Qb2 *(44...exd5 45.Rh6+ Kxa5 46.Bb6+ Kb5 47.exd5 Qb3+*

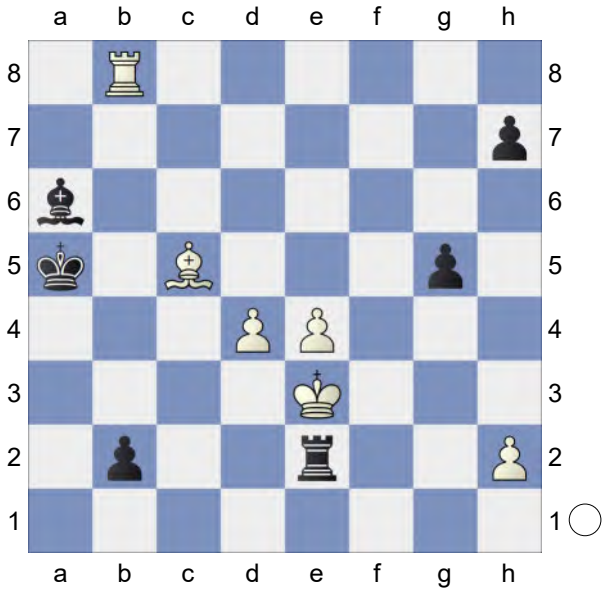
48.Ke4 Qxd5+ 49.Ke3 Qe4#; 44...exd5 45.Rh6+ Kxa5 46.Bb6+ Kb5 47.exd5 Qb3+ 48.Kd4 Qxd5+ 49.Ke3 Qe4#)]

43...Kxa5 44.Rb6 Ba6

[44...Rxh2? 45.Rxb7 Rh3+ 46.Kd2+-]

45.Rb8 Re2+

[45...Rxh2 46.d5∓]



46.Kf3 Bd3 47.h3 h5 -1.29/23

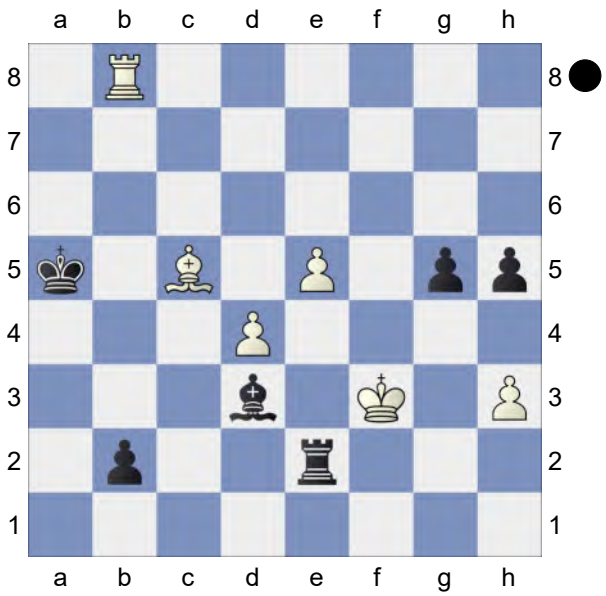
[47...b1R 48.Rxb1 Rxe4 49.Rb3 Rf4+ 50.Ke3=]

[47...Bb5-+ -2.23/21 48.Ra8+ Ba6]

48.e5? -3.24/23

[48.d5∓ -1.29/23 might work better.]

(Diagram)



48...Rh2!

[48...b1R 49.Rxb1 g4+ 50.hxg4 hxg4+ *(50...Bxb1 51.Kxe2 hxg4 52.e6±)* 51.Kxg4 Bxb1 52.Kh5]

[48...b1B 49.Be7-+]

[48...g4+ 49.hxg4 b1Q *(49...b1R? 50.Rxb1 hxg4+ 51.Kxg4-+)* 50.Rxb1 hxg4+ 51.Kxg4 Bxb1 52.Kg5]

49.Kg3 Re2 0.01/19

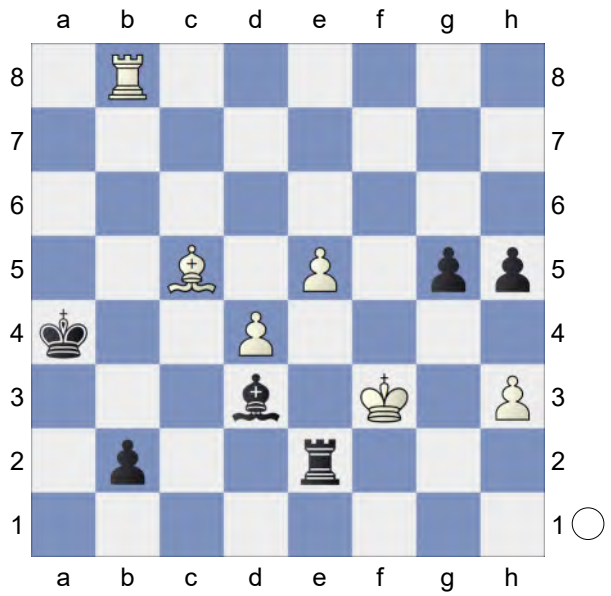
[49...b1Q 50.Rxb1=]

[Black should play 49...Rd2-+ -3.35/22 50.Bb4+ Ka6 51.Bxd2 Bb5]

50.Kf3= Ka4

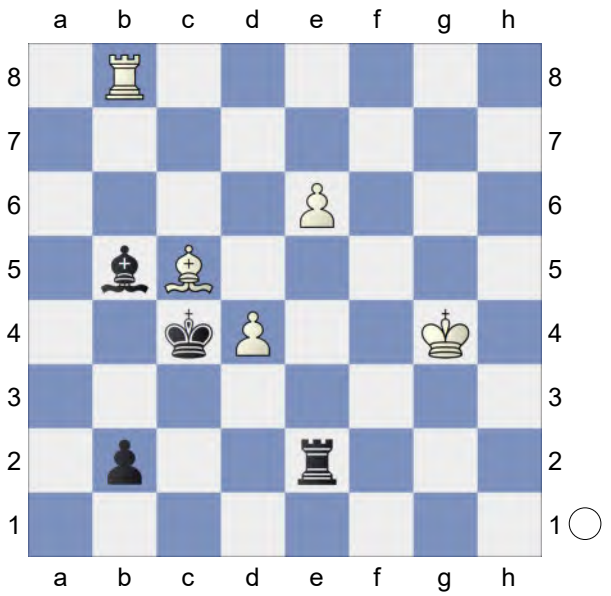
[50...g4+ 51.hxg4 b1R 52.Rxb1 hxg4+ 53.Kxg4 Bxb1 54.Kf3-+]

(Diagram)



51.e6? -10.22/20 **Bb5-+**
[51...b1B 52.e7=]
[51...b1N 52.Rxb1 g4+ 53.hxg4 hxg4+ 54.Kxg4 Bxb1 55.d5-+]
[51...Rxe6 52.Rxb2 Bf5 53.d5∓]
52.Ra8+ Kb3 53.Rb8 g4+ -10.89/17
[53...b1B? 54.Rxb5+ Kc3 55.Rxb1+- *(55.Kxe2 Bd3+ 56.Ke3 Bxb5+-)*]
[⌓53...Kc4 -6.58/16 54.Kxe2 b1Q *(54...b1B? 55.Ke3+-)* 55.Rxb5 Qe4+ *(55...Kxb5? 56.e7-+)* 56.Kf1 Kxb5]
54.hxg4 hxg4+
[54...b1B? is the wrong capture. 55.Rxb5+ Kc4 56.Kxe2+- *(56.Rxb1 Rxe6 57.gxh5 Rh6+-)*]
55.Kxg4 Kc4
[55...b1B? perishes. 56.Rxb5+ Kc4 57.Rxb1+-]

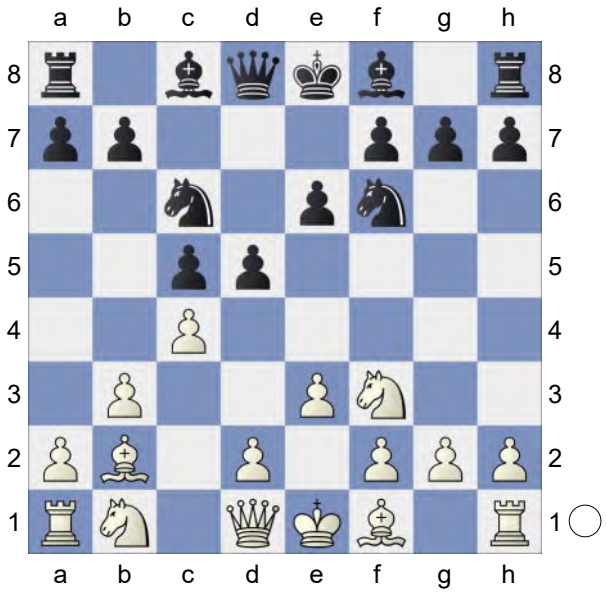
(Diagram)



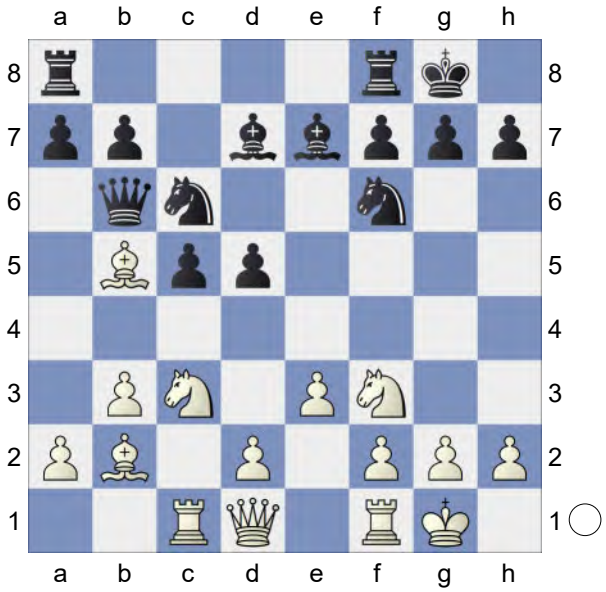
Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/ Black=0.24 (precise)
0-1

89 **A13**
□ **Nogerbek,Kazybek** **2514**
■ **Oro,Faustino** **2447**
Tata Steel Challengers (13.5) 02.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

A13: English Opening: 1...e6 **1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 c5 3.b3 Nf6 4.Bb2 e6 5.c4 Nc6**

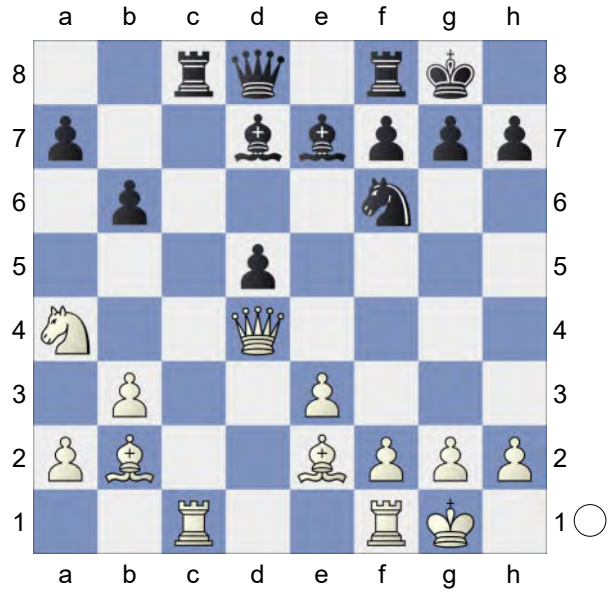


6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bb5 Qb6N 0.42/21
[7...Bd6= 0.00/19]
[7...Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 Bg4 *(9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Qa5 12.Bd3 Be6 13.Nc3 Rfc8 14.Rfc1 Ba3 15.Bxa3 Qxa3 16.Rc2 a6 17.Rb1 Qa5 18.b4 Qd8 19.a4 Rc7 20.a5 Rac8 21.Rbc1 Qd7 22.h3 h6 23.Qe5 Ne8 24.f4* 0-1 Zlotnikov,M-Chernosvitov,A Voskresensk_187040 1992) 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Qc2 Bd6 13.Nbd2 Rc8 14.Ng5 g6 15.Qc3 Be7 16.h3 Be6 17.Rfd1 c5 18.Qe5 Qc7 19.Qc3 d4 20.Qd3 Bf5 21.e4 Bd7 22.Re1 ½-½ Trkaljanov,V (2663)-Lasker,E (2386) op Velden 1993 (4)]
[7...Bd7 8.0-0 Bd6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nc3 Qe6 11.d4 cxd4 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Qxd4 Qg6 14.e4 Bh3 15.Nh4 Qg4 16.Rae1 0-0 17.Re3 Qxh4 18.Rxh3 Qg4 19.Qd3 h6 20.exd5 Rfd8 21.Qd1 Qf5 22.Rf3 ½-½ Dvoirys,S (2549)-Golod,V (2606) 102/7 Israel 2008]
[7...Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.Ne5 Rc8 11.h4 Bd6 12.h5 Bxb1 13.Rxb1 Qe7 14.f4 Ne4 15.h6 f6 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Ba6 Rc7 18.Qf3 c4 19.hxg7 Qxg7 20.bxc4 Nc5 21.g5 Nd3+ 22.Ke2 0-1 Baillon,O (2246)-Demais,T (1984) Clichy rapid op 2022 (7)]
[7...a6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Nc3 Bg4 11.Rc1 0-0 12.h3 Bh5 13.d3 Re8 14.Re1 Re6 15.e4 Qe7 16.exd5 Bxf3 17.Rxe6 fxe6 18.Qxf3 exd5 19.Qe2 Qf7 20.Na4 Re8 21.Qf3 Qe7 22.g3 1-0 Zotkin,Y (2460)-C1 11.Nbd2 Nc5 (2383) IECC T002002 IECC email (9)]
8.Nc3± Bd7 9.0-0 Be7 White is slightly better. **10.Rc1 0-0**

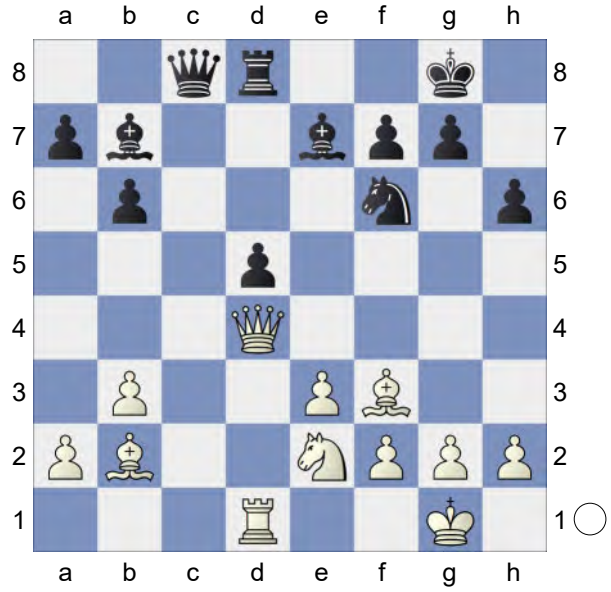


11.Be2 0.11/20
[11.d4± 0.57/19 was preferrable.]
11...Qd8 0.85/20
[11...d4= 0.11/20 12.Na4 Qb4]

12.Na4± Discovered Attack **12...b6 13.d4 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Rc8**



16.Rxc8 Qxc8 17.Nc3 Bc6 18.Rd1 Rd8 19.Bf3 h6 20.Ne2 Bb7

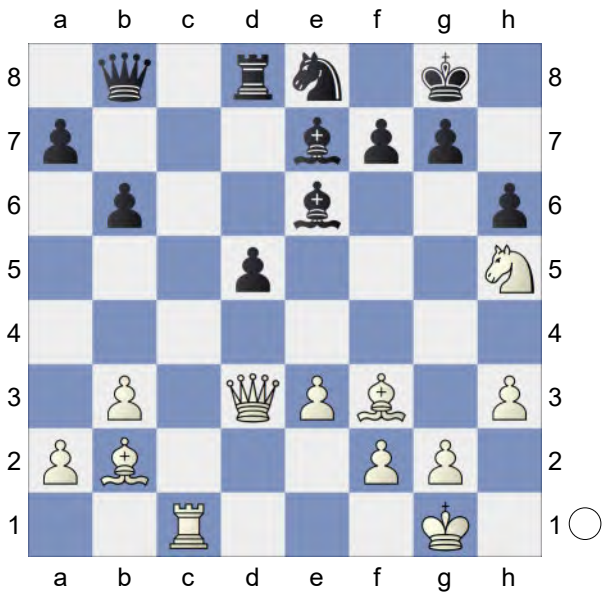


21.h3 Qc7 22.Ng3 Threatens to win with Rc1. **22...Bc8 23.Rc1 Qb8 24.Qd3 Ne8 25.Nh5**

[25.Bxd5 Be6 26.e4 Bf6∓]

25...Be6

(Diagram)



26.Rc6 Rxe6! is the strong threat.

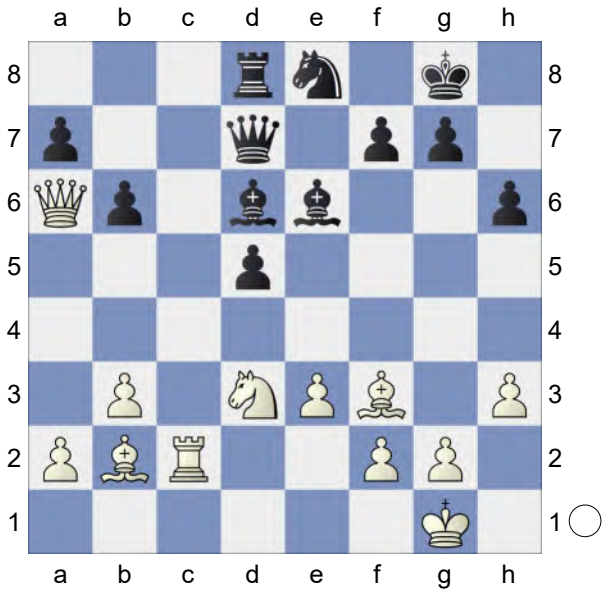
26...Bd7 1.47/22

[⌓26...Bd6 1.01/22]

27.Rc2 Be6 28.Nf4 Qd6 29.Qa6 Qd7 30.Nd3 0.78/23 White has more active pieces.

[⌓30.Nxe6 1.23/22 fxe6 31.Bh5]

30...Bd6



31.Bd4 0.41/22

[31.Rd2± 1.07/22]

31...Bf5± And now ...Nc7 would win.

32.Rd2

[32.Bxd5? Nc7 33.Rxc7 Qxc7-+

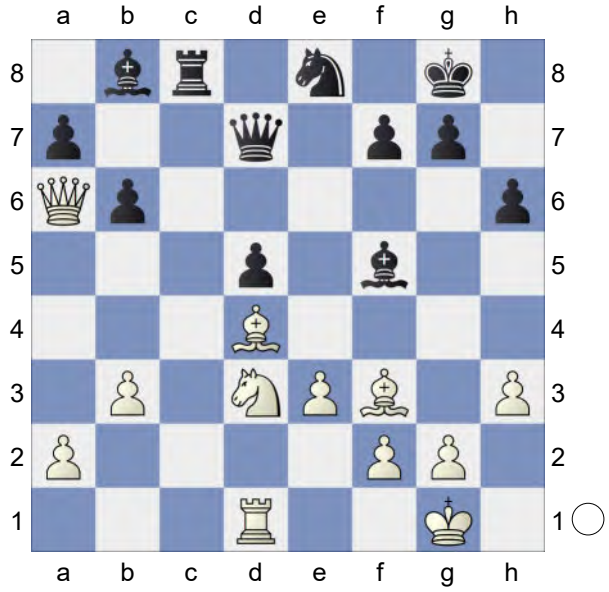
(33...Bxc7? 34.Bc4-+)]

32...Rc8 33.Rd1

[33.Bxd5? Nc7 34.Qxa7 Nxd5 35.Qxd7 Bxd7-+]

33...Bb8 1.02/22

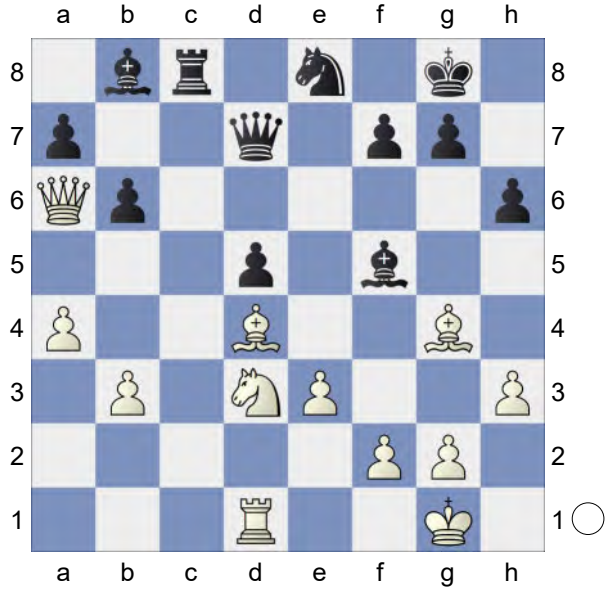
[33...Rc2± 0.54/20 feels stronger.]



34.a4 0.47/21

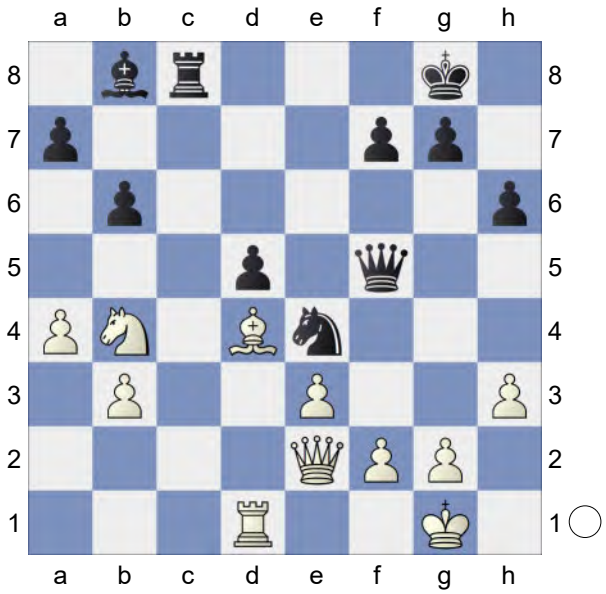
[White should try 34.Nf4!± 1.02/22]

34...Be4 35.Bg4 Bf5



36.Bxf5 Qxf5 37.Nb4 Nd6 38.Qe2 Ne4

(Diagram)



39.Nxd5! D e f l e c t i o n **39...Bd6**

Repels Ne7+

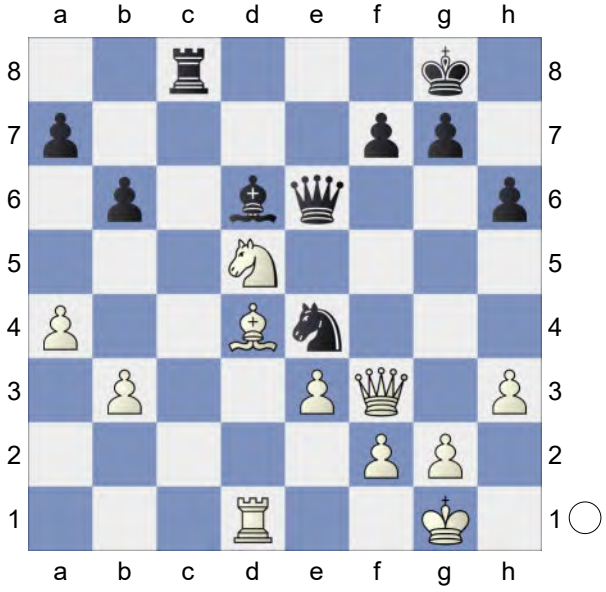
[39...Qxd5? loses. 40.Qg4+-]

40.Qf3 0.21/24

[40.f4± 0.65/21]

40...Qe6!=

[40...Qxd5? is the wrong capture. 41.Qg4 Bf8 42.Qxc8+-]

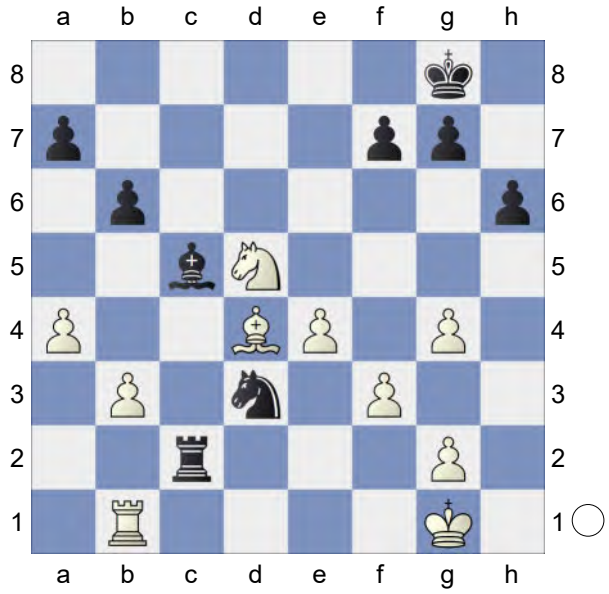


41.Qg4 Qxg4 42.hxg4 Rc2 43.f3 Nf2 44.Rb1↑ White has the initiative.

44...Nd3 Against Rb2 **45.e4** 0.19/24

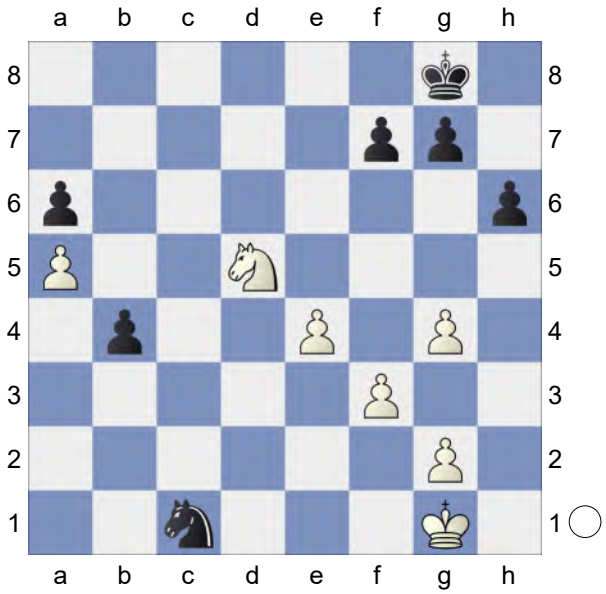
[45.Bc3!± 0.55/24 might be stronger.]

45...Bc5 0.91/24
[45...Rc1+= 0.19/24 remains equal. 46.Rxc1 Nxc1]

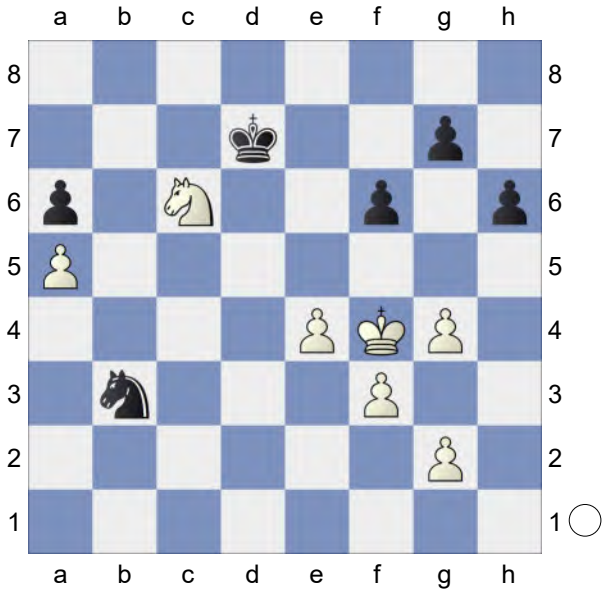


46.Bxc5± bxc5 1.35/24 Endgame. KRN-KRN
[⌓46...Nxc5 0.91/25 47.Rd1 Nxb3]
47.a5 0.76/23
[⌓47.Rd1 1.35/24 Nc1 48.Ne3 Ne2+ 49.Kf2]
47...a6 1.25/25
[⌓47...Rd2 0.76/23]
48.Rd1 Rc1 49.Rxc1 Deflection
49...Nxc1 KN-KN **50.b4 cxb4**

(Diagram)

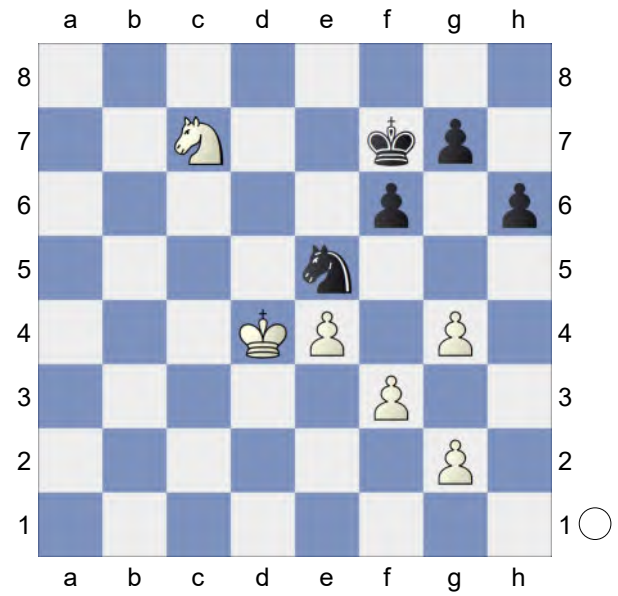


51.Nxb4 Nb3 52.Nc6 Kf8 53.Kf2 Ke8 54.Ke3 f6 55.Kf4 Kd7

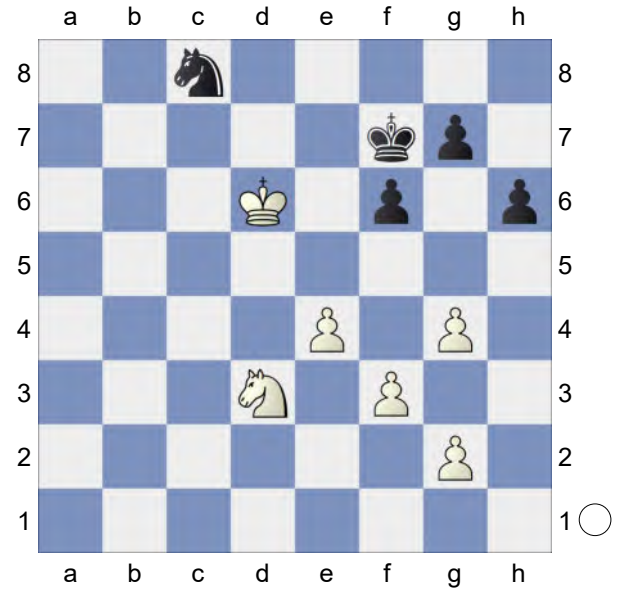


56.Nb4 Black must now prevent Kf5.
56...Ke6 57.Nxa6 Nxa5 58.Nc7+ Kf7 59.Ke3 Nc4+ 60.Kd4 Ne5

(Diagram)

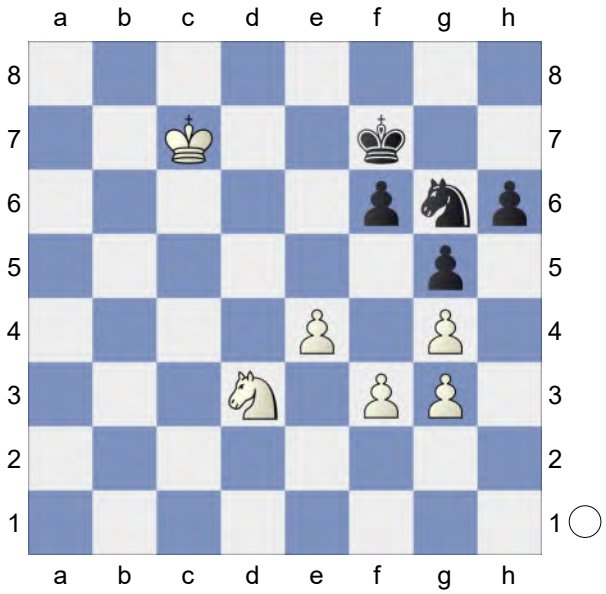


61.Nd5 Ke6 62.Nf4+ Kf7 63.Nd3 Nc6+ 2.21/29
[63...Nd7± 1.25/27 64.g3 g6]
64.Kc5 Ne7 2.22/30
[64...Na5± 1.46/27 65.Nf4 g6]
65.Kd6+- Nc8+ 3.18/31
[⌓65...g5 2.18/30 66.g3 Nc8+ 67.Kc5 Ke6]

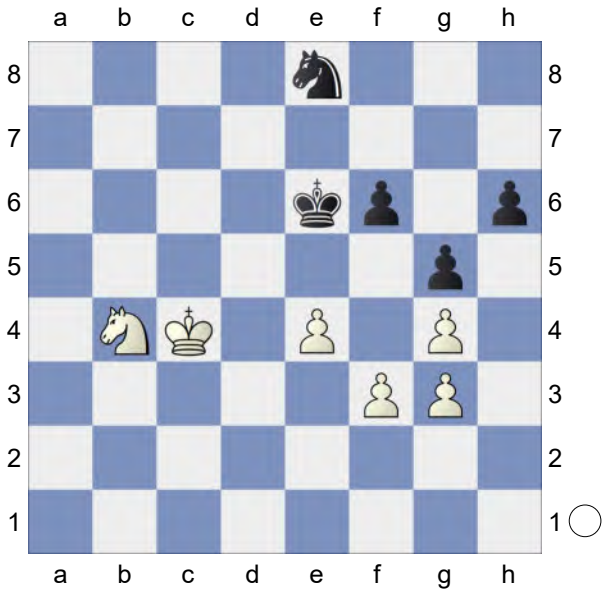


66.Kc7 Ne7 67.Kd7 g5? 7.32/31
[67...Ng6 2.33/29 68.f4 Nf8+ 69.Kd6 Ne6]
68.g3 Ng6 69.Kd6 Ne7 70.Kc7

Dodges Nc8 **70...Ng6**

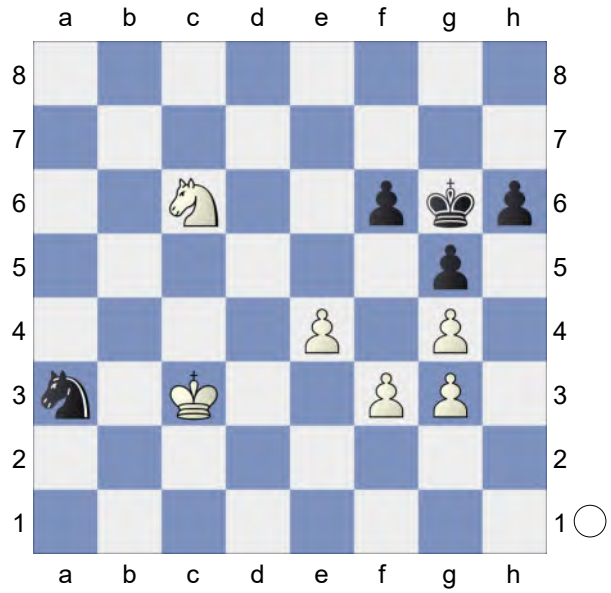


71.Kd7? 1.11/29
[71.Kd8!+- 3.96/29 Nf8 72.Nc5]
71...Nf8+± 72.Kd6 Ne6 73.Kd5 Prevents Nd4. aiming for Nc5. **73...Nc7+ 74.Kc4 Ke6?** 3.46/32
[74...Ne6± 1.12/29 was worth a try.]
75.Nb4+- Ne8

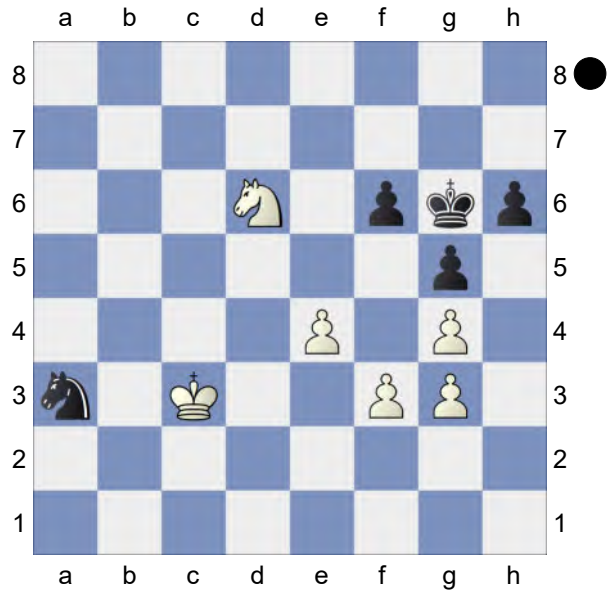


76.Nc6 1.59/28
[76.Nc2+- 2.71/30]
76...Nd6+? 3.56/30
[76...Kd6± 1.59/28 might work better. 77.Nd4 Ng7]

77.Kd3? 1.21/29
[77.Kc5+- 3.56/30]
77...Kf7± 78.Kd4 Nb5+ 79.Kc4 Na3+ 80.Kc3 Strongly threatening Nd4.
80...Kg6? 4.59/33
[80...Nb1+± 1.23/27 81.Kd3 Na3]



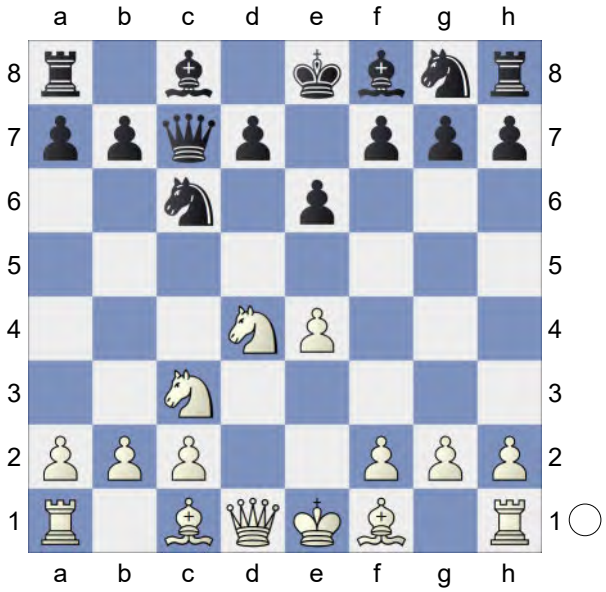
81.Ne7++- White is clearly winning.
81...Kf7 82.Nf5 Kg6 12.86/27
[⌓82...Nb5+ 4.38/29 83.Kc4 Nc7 84.Nxh6+ Ke6]
83.Nd6



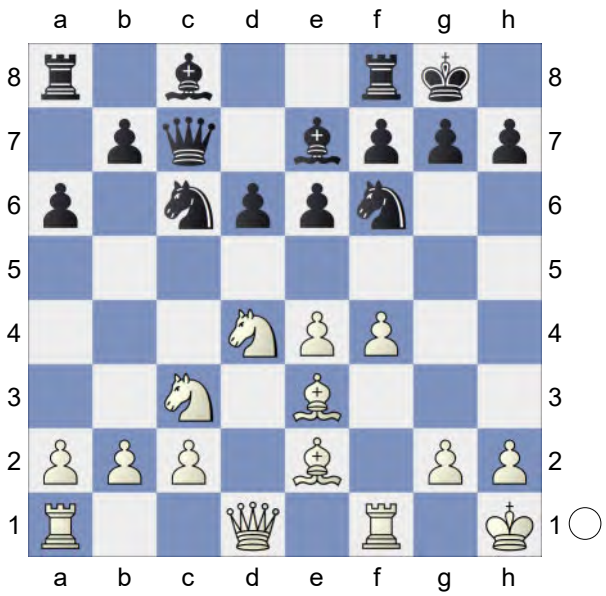
Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.13 (very precise)
1-0

90 **B49**
□ **Bulmaga,Irina** **2386**
■ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2623**
Tata Steel Challengers (13.6) 02.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

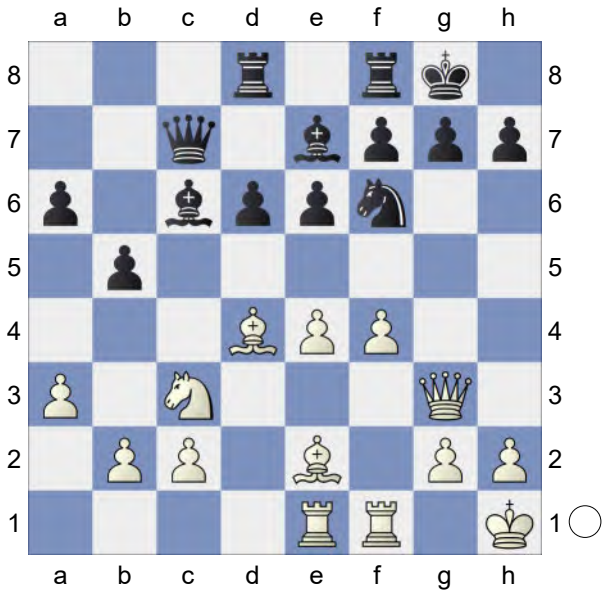
B85: Sicilian Scheveningen: 6 Be2 a6, lines with early Be3 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7**



6.Be2 a6 7.Be3 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.f4 d6 10.Kh1 0-0

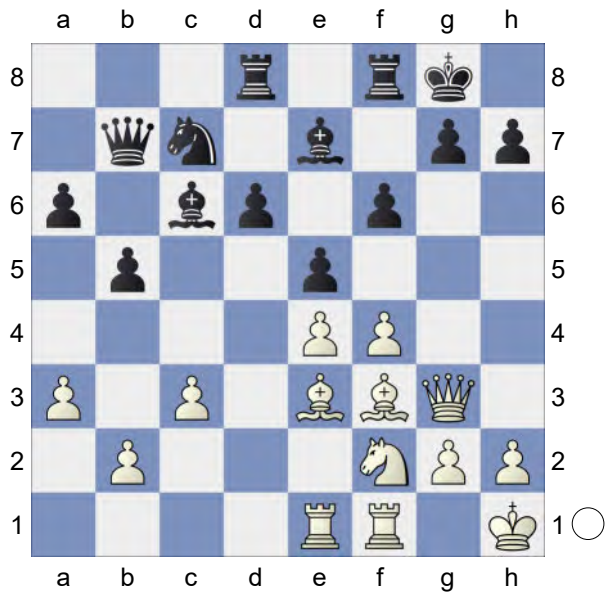


11.Qe1 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.Qg3 Bb7 14.a3 Rad8 15.Rae1 Bc6

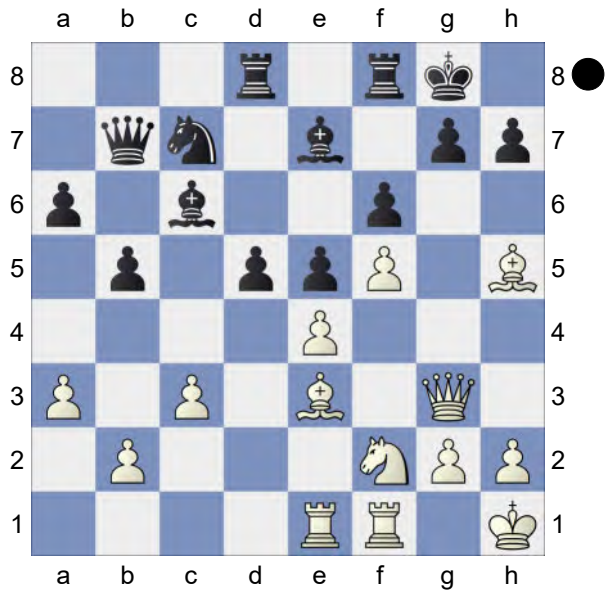


16.Bf3 Qb7 17.Nd1 Ne8 18.c3N
[18.Nf2 Bf6 19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.e5 Ne8 21.Ng4 Bxf3 22.Rxf3 dxe5 23.fxe5 Qe7 24.Nf6+ Kh8 25.Qh4 h6 26.Qe4 Nxf6 27.exf6 Qd6 28.Rd3 Qb6 29.fxg7+ Kxg7 30.Rg3+ Kh8 31.Qf4 e5 32.Qxe5+ f6 Zhigalko,S (2656) -Bukavshin,I (2657) 2015 [Paunovic,Tomislav] 1-0 (39) 33.Qh5 Qc7 34.Qxh6+ Qh7 35.Qf4 Qxc2 36.Rh3+ Kg8 37.Qg4+ Kf7 38.Qe6+ Kg7 39.Qe7+ Chapter B51-Games Game 19 (39)]
18...f6 19.Nf2 White is slightly better.
19...e5 20.Be3
[Of course not 20.fxe5 dxe5 21.Be3 Nd6∓]
20...Nc7

(Diagram)

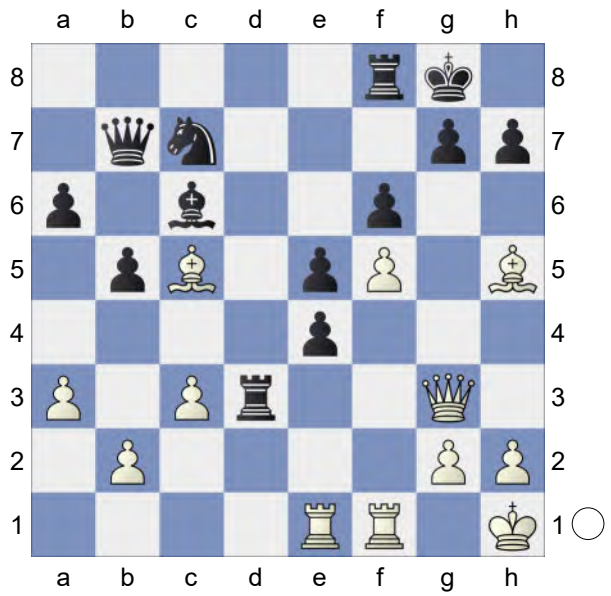


21.f5 -0.04/21
[21.Bg4± 0.42/20 might be stronger.]
21...d5= 22.Bh5

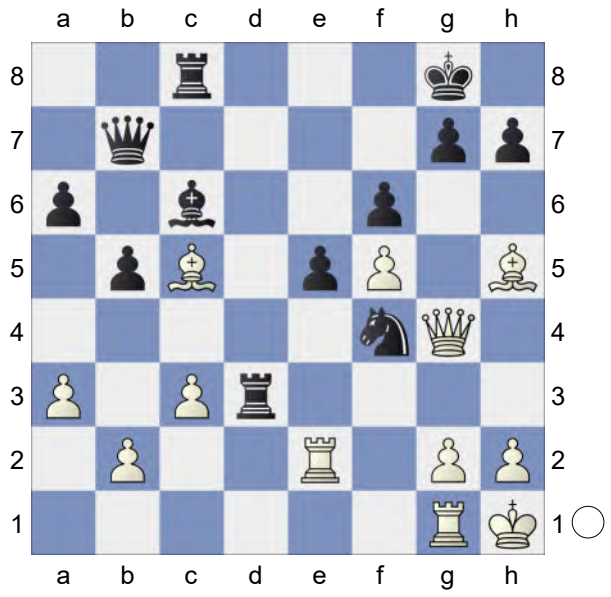


Threatens to win with Bh6. **22...Bd6**
[22...Kh8? 23.Qh3 h6 24.Bg6+-]
23.Nd3 -0.64/20
[23.Bf3= -0.19/20]
23...dxe4∓ White is on the road to losing. **24.Nc5** -1.57/25
[White should play 24.Nf2 -0.81/23]
24...Bxc5∓ 25.Bxc5 Rd3

(Diagram)

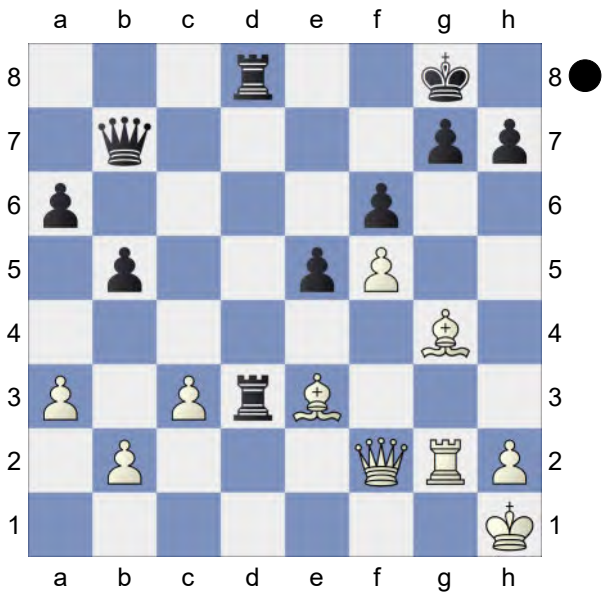


26.Qg4 Rc8 27.Be7? -3.82/22
[27.Be3 -1.81/23]
27...Nd5-+ 28.Bc5 e3 29.Rg1 e2 30.Rxe2 Nf4

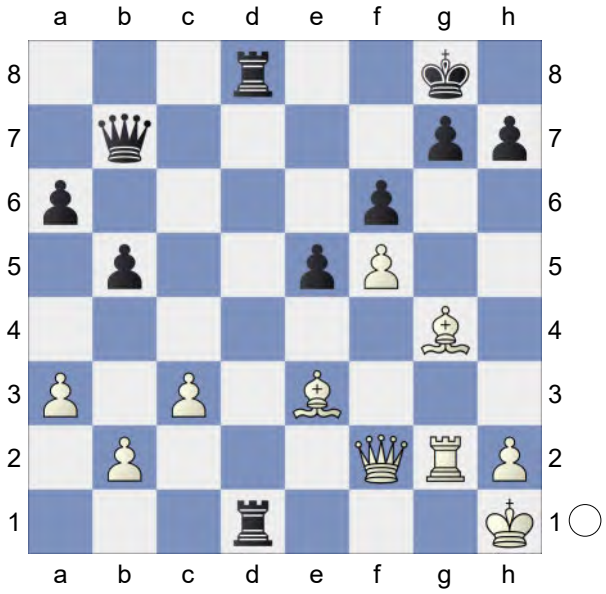


31.Be3 Nxe2 32.Qxe2 Rcd8 33.Bg4 Be4 34.Qf2? -4.80/26
[34.Re1 -2.04/24]
34...Bxg2+ Black is clearly winning.
35.Rxg2 -7.31/25
[⌓35.Qxg2 -4.88/26 Qxg2+ 36.Kxg2 Rxe3 37.Kf2]

(Diagram)

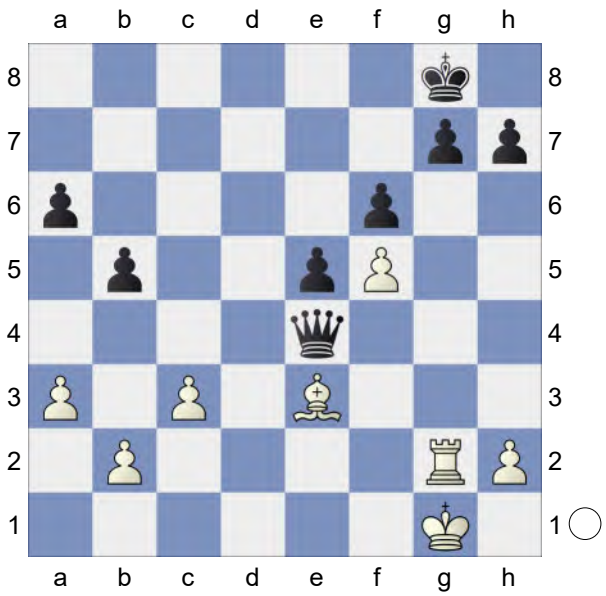


35...Rd1+!



36.Bxd1 Rxd1+ 37.Qg1 Rxg1+ 38.Kxg1 Qe4

(Diagram)

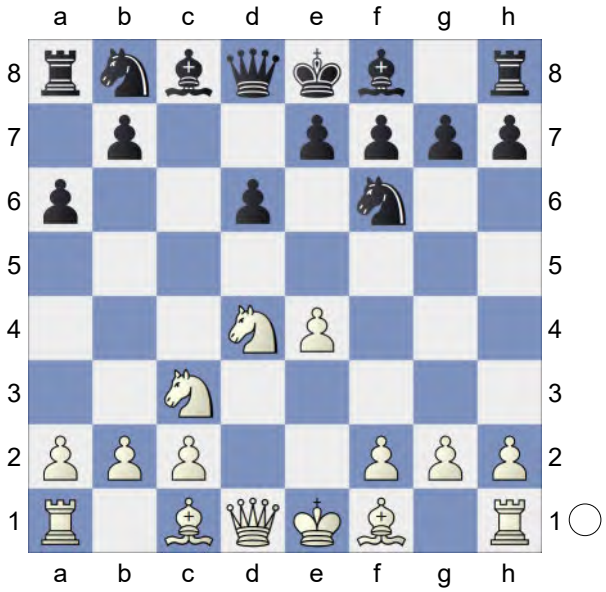


Weighted Error Value: White=0.57/ Black=0.10 (very precise)

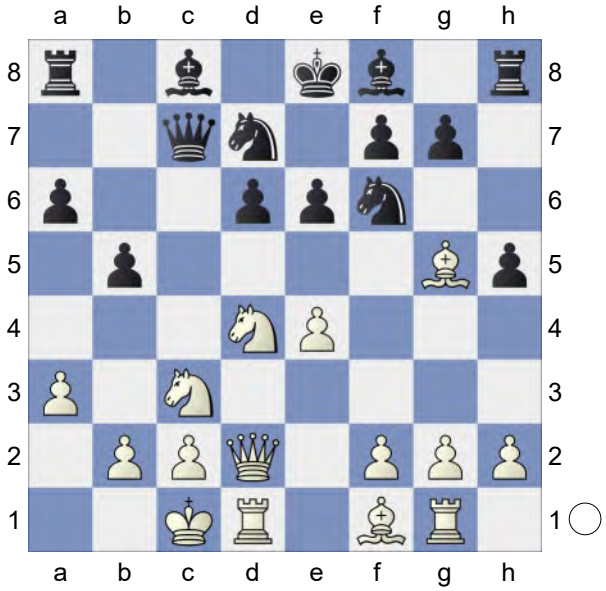
0-1

91 **B90**
□ **Lu,Miaoyi** **2429**
■ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2659**
Tata Steel Challengers (13.7) 02.02.2025
[Kitty Kat]

B90: Sicilian Najdorf: Unusual White 6th moves, 6 Be3 Ng4 and 6 Be3 e5 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6**



6.Rg1 -0.08/18
[6.Bg5± 0.43/18]
6...h5 0.33/17
[6...e5= -0.08/18 7.Nf3 h6]
7.Bg5± e6N
[7...Nbd7 8.Bc4 *(8.Qd2 e6 9.a4 Be7 10.f4 Nc5 11.Bd3 Bd7 12.Rf1 Rc8 13.a5 b5 14.b4 Nxd3+ 15.cxd3 d5 16.Rb1 dxe4 17.dxe4 Rc4 18.e5 Bc8* Nepomniachtchi,I (2773) -Fedoseev,V (2701) chess.com (Int.-rapid) 152/(81) 2022 [Arsovic,Goran]*)* 8...Qc7 *(8...e6 9.Qe2 b5 10.Bb3 b4 11.Nd5 Bb7 12.0-0-0 exd5 13.exd5+ Be7 14.Nf5 Kf8 15.Rge1 Ne5 16.Qd2 Ng6 17.Qxb4 Qd7 18.Rxe7 Nxe7 19.Nxd6 Bc8 20.Nxf7 Kxf7 21.d6+ Kg6 22.Bxf6 Nc6 23.Qe4+* Costa,L (2472)-Sethuraman,S (2576) Wangels 2024 0-1 (37)*)* 9.Bb3 e6 10.Qe2 Nc5 11.0-0-0 Be7 12.f4 Bd7 13.Kb1 Nxb3 14.cxb3 Rd8 15.f5 e5 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Nd5 Qb8 18.Nc2 Bc6 19.Nce3 b5 20.Rc1 Rc8 21.Rc2 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Neverov,V (2226)-Meyer,P Berlin 1998 CR97-81 [Joachim] 1-0]
[7...b5 8.a4 b4 9.Nd5 Nxe4 10.Bh4 Bb7 11.Bc4 Nd7 12.Qe2 Rc8 13.f3 g5 14.fxe4 gxh4 15.Bxa6 Bxa6 16.Qxa6 Bg7 17.0-0-0 e6 18.Nc6 Nb8 19.Nxb8 Rxb8 20.Nf4 0-0 21.Kb1 Bxb2 22.g4 Paravyan,D (2617) -Chigaev,M (2631) Russia 152/81 2022 [Arsovic,Goran] 0-1 (34)]
8.Qd2 b5 White has an edge. **9.a3 Qc7** 0.45/19
[9...Nbd7= -0.01/18]
10.0-0-0 Nbd7

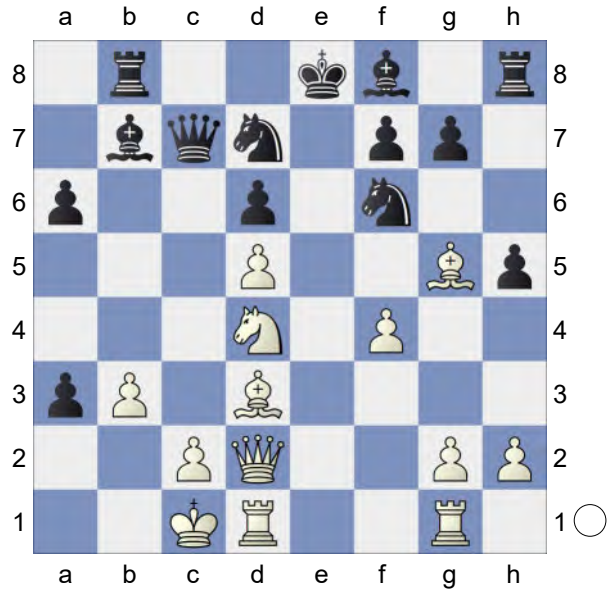


11.f4 Rb8 0.51/18
[11...Bb7= 0.19/19]
12.Bd3 b4 13.Nd5 -1.72/21 Loses the game. **13...exd5-+ 14.exd5 bxa3**
[14...Nxd5 15.Rge1+ Be7 16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.Nf5 bxa3 18.Rxe7+ Kd8

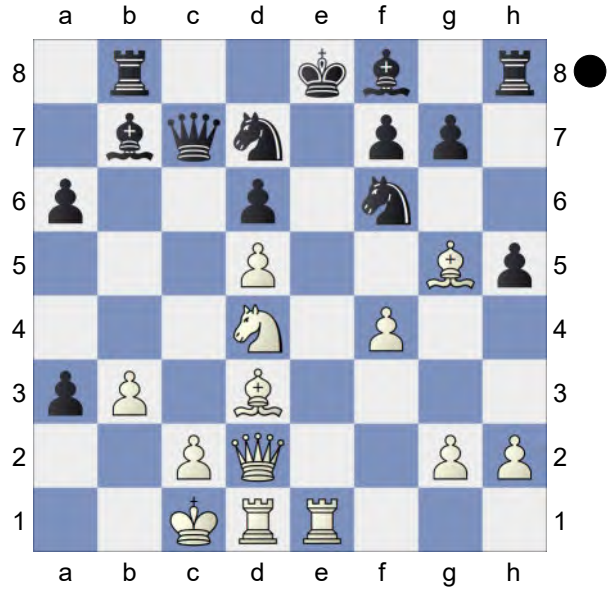
19.b4= *(19.bxa3 g6∓)*]

15.b3 Black must now prevent Rge1+.

15...Bb7



16.Rge1+



Kd8! 17.Re3 -2.51/18

[17.Be4 -1.67/20 is a better defense.]

17...Nb6

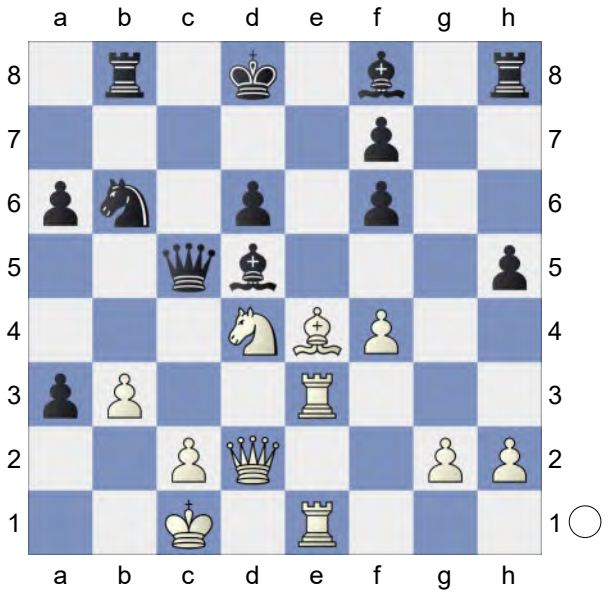
[17...Bxd5? 18.Bxa6 Nc5 19.Bb5-+]

18.Rde1 White threatens Re8+ and mate. **18...Qc5**

[18...Nbxd5? 19.Re8+ Kd7 20.Bf5#]

19.Be4 Bxd5 20.Bxf6+ gxf6

(Diagram)

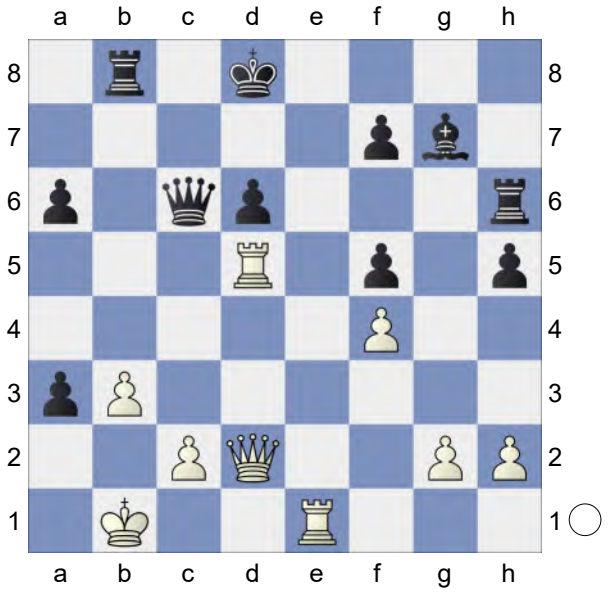


21.Bxd5 Nxd5 22.Rd3 f5

[Don't blunder 22...a2? 23.Kb2-+]

23.Kb1 Bg7 24.Nc6+ Qxc6 25.Rxd5 Rh6

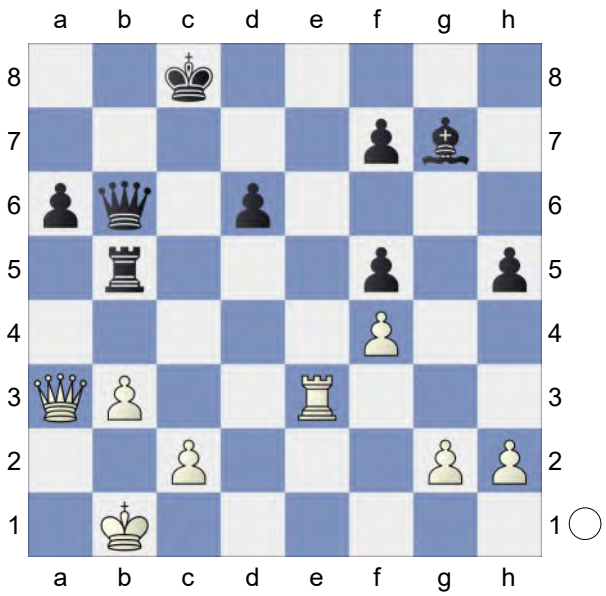
[Not 25...Qc3 26.Rxd6+ Kc7 27.Re7+ Kc8 28.Qxc3+ Bxc3 29.Rc6+ Kd8 30.Rcc7= *(30.Rxf7 Bb4∓)*]



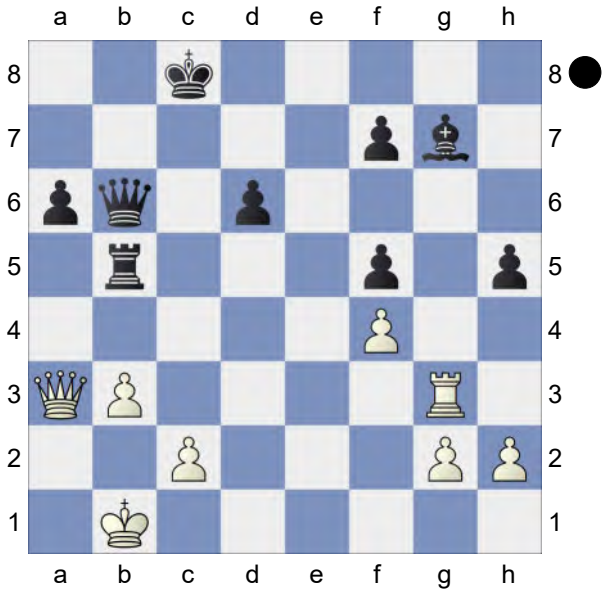
26.Qa5+ Kc8 27.Rd3 Re6 28.Rde3 -12.47/22

[⌓28.Rxe6 -4.92/23 fxe6 29.Qd2]

28...Rb5 29.Qxa3 Rxe3 30.Rxe3 Qb6



31.Rg3

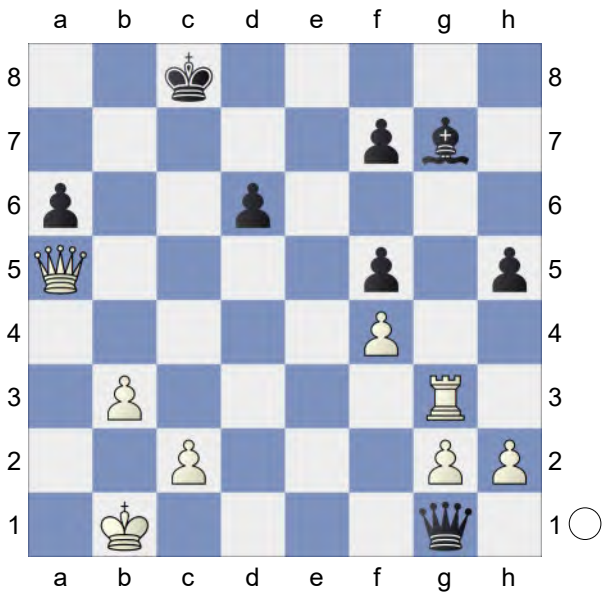


Ra5! 32.Qxa5

[32.Rxg7 Rxa3]

32...Qg1+

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.88/ Black=0.11 (very precise)

0-1